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THE CONFERENCE.

The Thirteenth Annual Conference of Charities and Correction has passed into history. Its great success was due, first, to the care taken by the president, Mr. Neff, in the preparation of the programme, and the close attention paid by him to every detail of the preliminary arrangements; and, second, to the unusual energy displayed by the local committee of St. Paul and Minneapolis, under the wise and devoted leadership of the admirable secretary of the Minnesota State Board, the Rev. H. H. Hart.

No gathering of equal numbers has ever assembled on a similar occasion in this country. Four hundred and seventy-two names of those present were registered. Not so many States were represented as at some previous sessions, but this is explained in part by the geographical situation of the city where it met. None has ever received a more cordial welcome, or been more fully and fairly reported by the local daily press. In the character of its membership, too, it was distinguished. The attendance of ex-President Hayes and his wife, of ex-Gov. Hoadley, of Judge Follett, of Bishop Ireland (R. C.), and of a number of bishops of the Episcopal church, and of men and women eminent in their several lines of charitable and social endeavor, like Miss Clara Barton, Miss Emily Huntington, and many others whom it would be proper to name here, if space allowed, gave dignity and weight to its deliberations.

In the papers read and in the discussion of the topics considered, it was remarkable for thoroughness of preparation, moderation of expression, and the absence of empty enthusiam or crudeness of thought. We are convinced that its proceedings, when published, will be calculated to give to any intelligent foreigner into whose hands they may chance to come, a higher idea of American citizenship. For breadth, catholicity, courtesy, and a peculiar union of theoretic insight with practical shrewdness, characteristic of the American mind, it would be difficult to match it elsewhere.

The utility of such meetings has often been questioned by those who have not attended any of them, and by some who have done so, but who have not imbibed the spirit of the Conference. To some it appears that nothing is of value which can not be immediately coined into a concrete form of words, or, better still, into action. But the peculiarity of this body is that it refuses to commit itself, as such, to any formulas or any policy. It investigates, it talks, it exchanges views and experiences, and there it stops. It leaves to other organizations the task of executing reforms which may be there suggested or advocated. Every one is at liberty to contribute to the pile of opinion and sentiment heaped up at its annual gatherings, and every one may take from this pile what he likes and leave the rest. It is a bazaar of thought and information, where no price is charged for any article exposed upon the counter, and no one is urged to take any thing offered, even as a gift. To borrow the striking figure of speech of Mr. Sanborn, it is a national whispering-gallery; what is said in it is heard, sooner or later by the entire nation, even though those who hear do not know the source of their impression. Its effect upon public opinion is, like that of the press, constant and powerful, though scarcely visible.

But those who attend it do not think so much of its influence upon others as upon themselves. They come to it as to a school, where they are sure to learn some thing they want to know, from those who are competent to instruct them. They come to it as to a family reunion, where they are certain to receive sympathy and affection from those in whose society they feel an intense delight. We asked a lady once what effect the Conference had upon her. She replied; "It has made me over." So many are working alone, who feel the need of contact with others like-minded with themselves; so many realize the need of being broadened in their views and strengthened in their devotion; so many understand that there are correlations between every branch of humanitarian work and every other branch of the same; so many want counsel and support in their own line of work, from those engaged not only in similar work but in other affiliated varieties of philanthropic effort, which may cast reflected light upon their own relations and duties: that the Conference meets a personal want, which nothing else can supply. The best proof of this is found in the steady increase in the number of its adherents, and the sacrifices which they make, to attend it.

A St. Paul paper said that the appearance of the audience could scarcely be characterized as that of a fashionable assembly. Very true; but is this a reflection upon it? A little boy, who came to it, said to his mother, "I thought that missionaries were poor folks, but these are very good-looking people." Good-looking, in the best sense of the word—earnest, quiet, benevolent, intelligent, public-spirited. An agent of a popular line of travel, who attempted to organize a pleasure excursion (on the lakes, we think), remarked that he never had seen such people to work; every moment of their time was taken up; they seemed absorbed, and he could scarcely get their attention for a moment.

Wherever it has gone, so far as we know or believe, it has left a blessing behind it. Practical results have always followed. It asks for no social recognition. It entreats no one to join it. It has no test of membership—no constitution, no rules of order, no dues, no declaration of principles, no qualifications for membership except interest in the general subject. The only tie which holds it together is that of mutual affection and a common sense of duty to the unfortunate and the undeserving. It has no bias, philosophical, scientific, sectarian, or political. It has no selfish ends to secure. It meets, talks, adjourns, and leaves the result to time and God, assured that whatever in it is worthy to survive will live and will affect the life of the world; all else will perish, and ought to perish. Nothing like it in all respects exists. It is not a church, it is not even a society, it is merely an assemblage. The secret of its power resides in its tolerance, its impartiality, its interested indifference.

The account of the St. Paul meeting which follows does not pretend to be more than a résumé of the proceedings. We fear that it will seem like champagne which has lost its sparkle. No words can convey an adequate idea of the spirit of the meeting—not even a verbatim report; how much less so brief an abstract.

Charity is said to be cold; but neglect is colder.

FIRST DAY—THURSDAY.

At eight o'clock in the evening, in the Hall of Representatives, which was decorated with flags and flowers, the Rev. Dr. Dana, of St. Paul, chairman of the local committee of arrangements, stepped to the speaker's desk and uttered a few words of welcome, after which he called upon Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, to lead the Conference in prayer.

Formal welcomes to the State and city were then pronounced by Governor Hubbard and Acting-Mayor Rice, also by Mr. Russell Blakeley, president of the Chamber of Commerce. These were well received.

Dr. Dana then called upon ex-President Hayes, who was in attendance with Mrs. Hayes, to respond on behalf of the Conference. Prolonged and renewed applause greeted his appearance upon the platform, which again broke out when he took his seat. He touched upon the evils that afflict society and the relation of the Conference to them, and said : "The hasty and unreflecting demand, at the very threshold, What is your remedy?—no need of discussion, unless you have a remedy. We reply, Not too fast, good friends ; we may not be ready with the remedy ; agree with us first as to the evils of the present situation and as to the necessity for a change, and next be very earnest about it and resolve to find the remedy, and victory is not very far off."

Mr. Frank B. Sanborn, of Boston, Inspector of Charities for the State of Massachusetts, followed, alluding to the pessimistic way in which some Americans speak of their own country, but pointing out that we enjoy unusual facilities for the prosecution of charitable work, in that we have social equality and the spirit of co-operation. He paid a tribute to the excellence of western institutions, and declared that the east has more to learn of the west than the west of the east.

The President of the Conference, Mr. William Howard Neff, of Cincinnati, was then called to the desk, and read the opening address, in which he successively referred to the organization of State boards of charities, the treatment of the insane, the training of idiots, preventive work among children (particularly in the line of literary and industrial education), the reformation of juvenile delinquents, prison labor, and the organization of charity in cities.

On motion of Mr. Wines, representing the executive committee, the president was authorized to appoint committees on credentials, on organization, on business, and on time and place of next meeting.

A gavel made, of four different woods, by a convict in the Minnesota Penitentiary, was presented to the president, and the letter from the warden accompanying it was read, after which an adjournment was had until to-morrow morning.

At this meeting, the Hall was densely crowded, the galleries being filled, and many standing, for want of seats.

SECOND DAY—FRIDAY.

The Conference reassembled at nine o'clock. Prayer was offered by the Rev. E. C. Mitchell, of St. Paul.

The first business in order was the report of the standing committee on reports from States, which was read by the chairman, Mr. Wines. The plan pursued in these assemblages is to have written reports prepared in advance by competent persons in each State and Territory, and the first half-hour of every morning and afternoon session is devoted to hearing them read ; opportunity is also given for additional observations by those present ; and in the published proceedings these are reproduced, so that the history of progress made from year to year is permanently preserved.

The report of the committee on State Boards of Public Charities followed, by Mr. Giles, of Wisconsin, accompanied by a paper by Judge Andrews, of Ohio, urging the taking of steps by the Conference to bring before the legislatures of States which have no such Board the importance of establishing them.

Mr. Garrett, for the executive committee, submitted resolutions, which were adopted, making the treasurer of the Conference the custodian of all property belonging to it, and appointing Mrs. Barrows, now the official reporter, official editor as well, and limiting the size of the next volume to 450 pages. Mrs. Sarah A. Spencer, of Washington, expressed the wish that a fee might be charged for membership in the Conference, but this was resisted, and Mr. Neff, the president, stated that if a sufficient number of copies of the proceedings were ordered and paid for in advance, no other fund would be necessary.

At the afternoon session reports from States were continued ; after which Dr. Byers, of Ohio, made the report of the committee on poorhouses and jails. This was discussed by Mr. Wright, of Wisconsin, Bishop Whipple of Minnesota, ex-Gov. Hoadley, of Ohio, Bishop Knickerbocker, of Indiana, Gen. Bane, of Washington Territory, Rev. Mr. Haley, of Missouri, Bishop Gillespie, of Michigan, ex-President Hayes, Mr. Letchworth, of New York, Rev. Dr. Reed, of Colorado, Rev. Dr. Hill, of Oregon, and others. Ex-Gov. Hoadley mentioned the fact that he had pardoned three prisoners confined in a certain jail in Ohio, on the ground that the prison was not a fit place of habitation for a human being.

In the evening the Conference met in the hall of the High School, and listened to an eloquent address by Bishop Ireland, on The Charities of the Catholic Church, followed by another by Judge Prendergast, of Chicago, in which the ground was taken that the State should leave largely to private charity the work which it undertakes to do, particularly for the reason that it is not competent to give the religious instruction and training which is, before all, important for the young persons cared for in public institutions.

At the close of these addresses the members of the Conference returned to the capitol, where the ladies of St. Paul had arranged for a public reception to ex-President and Mrs. Hayes, who were asked to take their stand in the Senate Chamber, which had been handsomely decorated for the occasion. They were assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Neff, and by Gov. Hubbard. After the ceremony of presentation was concluded, an adjournment took place to the lower hall where refreshments were served, and an hour agreeably spent in mutual introductions and social intercourse.

THIRD DAY—SATURDAY.

Promptly at nine o'clock in the morning, the Conference was opened with prayer by Rabbi Sonneschein, of St. Louis, Missouri.

A half hour was spent in listening to the reports from States.

Mr. Sanborn read a brief account of the experience gained in Massachusetts in the matter of caring for the insane on the Scotch plan, by boarding out a limited number of them in private families.

The first order for the morning session was the report of the standing committee on kindergartens, which was read by Miss Anna Hallowell, chairman, of Philadelphia. She also read a paper on The Kindergarten as a Preventative of Vice and Crime, by the Rev. R. Heber Newton, of New York. The growth of the kindergarten as an adjunct to our public school system dates from 1873, when Miss Susan E. Blow offered her gratuitous services to the board of education in St. Louis, promising to supervise and direct an experimental kindergarten, if the board would provide a room and an assistant. In 1877, Mrs. Quincy A. Shaw, of Boston, began her work in the direction of the establishment of free kindergartens. San Francisco, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and New York followed the example of these two devoted women, until now, kindergartens are part of the system of public schools in every principal city ; the number of pupils collected in them is 20,000. Dr. Newton argued that kindergartens lead children out of temptation ; he characterized them as "soul-schools,"

pointed out how they develop the sense of corporate life in the little ones, thus rebuking selfishness, and leaving no room for the up-springing of criminal impulses, and thought that their cost would be saved in the diminished expenditure for the maintenance of convicts in our penitentiaries.

Miss Emily Huntington, of New York, gave a most pleasing description of the work of the Wilson Day Industrial School, in which the children of working-women are cared for and taught, not only by the kindergarten but by the kitchen-garden system, of which she is the inventor.

Miss Clara Barton, of Washington, president of the Red Cross Society in the United States, related in an entertaining way the story of the competition for a prize offered by the Empress of Germany for the best portable field-hospital, at the World's Conference of the Red Cross, in Geneva, two years ago, which she attended as the official representative of this country. The first prize was awarded to a Danish inventor, the second to W. M. Ducker, of Brooklyn, whose barrack was set up in a lot oppposite the State House, and examined by many delegates. Mr. Sanborn has been characterized as a "thinker from Thinkerville." One of the St. Paul papers said that Miss Barton is "a talker from the City of Talkers." She is certainly a remarkably fluent and agreeable elocutionist.

The time having arrived for the report of the committee on reform schools, it was read by the chairman, Mr. P. Caldwell, superintendent of the Louisville House of Refuge. He argued in favor of the congregate system and "allopathic" treatment; Mr. Hite, of the Lancaster (Ohio) Reform School, who followed him, took opposite ground. An admirable paper was read by Mr. Fulton, of the Rochester State Industrial School (New York), on Technological Education in Reform Schools. An episode of this session was the excited offer of Mr. Caldwell to deposit with the president of the Conference his check for $500, to be given to Judge Prendergast, of Chicago, if he could substantiate his assertion, the evening previous, that reform schools are the vestibules of the penitentiary and schools for the rearing of criminals; of 1,800 inmates discharged from the Louisville House of Refuge, not 50, he said, had been subsequently in prison, and not 10 in the Kentucky penitentiary.

The afternoon was devoted to a visit to the Minnesota State Reform School. Carriages were provided by the local committee, and the entire body took a drive through the city, bringing up at the school, where, after wandering through the buildings and grounds, which were found in perfect order, and presented a most home-like appearance, a collation was served. The children were gathered in the chapel, where songs were sung by Mr. H. Thane Miller, of Cincinnati, and addresses made by ex-President Hayes, Mr. Mills, of North Carolina, Dr. Byers. and Judge Follett, of the supreme court of Ohio. On the way back, a call was made at the Catholic Orphan Asylum.

The event of the evening was the address of ex-Gov. Hoadley, of Ohio, on "The Pardoning Power." Beginning with an entertaining and instructive account of his experience in the governor's office, he went on to discuss the parole system, under the indefinite sentence, as practised at Elmira, which has been adopted in Ohio. He said: "Were I to reframe constitutional powers, not much would be left of the power of pardon, and nothing at all under that misleading title. A very strictly-guarded judicial re-hearing in the few cases of after-developed innocence, with either the general adoption of intermediate sentences, or the creation of a board for the equalization of sentences, with the free use of paroles or tickets-of-leave, would, in my judgment, better than any power of pardon, fulfil the duty the State owes its people in this regard, withdrawing from the prisons and the cause of penal justice the menace to the peace of society and the discipline of the prison involved in the power of pardon as ordinarily exercised." If the power is to be retained, he thought that it should be exercised by a board, since the pardon business is now conducted principally by a process of *ear-wigging*, the only remedy for which, and for the evils growing out of the abuse of the power, is publicity—an official, quasi-judicial scrutiny substituted for private solicitation. "Parole, not pardon; probation, not emancipation; should be the rule. A constant police supervision should be exercised over every liberated prisoner, whether his term has expired or not." The rapt attention of the audience and the loud and long applause which greeted the conclusion of the address testified to the intense interest and satisfaction with which it was listened to by a crowd which filled every part of the chamber. Ex-Gov. Marshall, of Minnesota, added a few words, by request, in which he expressed dissent from some of the views urged by ex-Gov. Hoadley. Other speeches were made by Gen. Brinkerhoff, Mr. Wines, Rabbi Sonneschein, Dr. Byers, and Chaplain Brooks of the Colorado Penitentiary. Mr. Wines called ex-Gov. Hoadley's attention to the fact that he had spoken of the pardoning power as including the right to commute sentence, to parole prisoners, and to transfer them from one prison to another, and suggested that considerable importance attaches to the definition of the pardoning power in this connection, since, in States which by a written constitution vest the power of pardon exclusively in the executive, if a parole is a pardon, any law authorizing the indeterminate sentences would probably be held to be unconstitutional and void. Ex-Gov. Hoadley said, in reply, that the supreme court of Ohio had held that a parole is not a pardon, but agreed that the question is one which requires elaborate and careful study, the whole subject being encompassed with difficulty. Dr. Byers and Mr. Brooks testified that the power of pardon works a disadvantage to prisoners by encouraging in their minds the hope of speedy release, which those who least deserve it are most likely, through the solicitations of their friends outside, to obtain.

FOURTH DAY—SUNDAY.

This being the Sabbath was devoted to rest. There was no formal session of the Conference. Several of the clergymen in attendance were invited to occupy local pulpits in the morning. But in the evening, the centre of interest was the great meeting in the interest of prison reform, at Plymouth (Congregational) Church, of which the Rev. Dr. Dana is the pastor. It is said that the auditorium will seat 1,500 people; but multitudes were unable to gain admission. No such meeting on that question, probably, has ever been assembled on the American continent, with the single exception of the meeting in the Detroit Opera-House, last October, in connection with the session of the National Prison Congress.

The first speaker was the Rev. John L. Milligan, chaplain of the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, who gave an account of the International Prison Congress at Rome, last year, which he attended as one of the three commissioners appointed for the purpose by President Cleveland. His allusions to the beauty and grace of Queen Margherita provoked loud applause. Mr. Round, secretary of the New York Prison Association and also of the National Association, confirmed what Mr. Milligan had said, having himself been another of the American delegates appointed by the President.

Gen. Brinkerhoff, of Ohio, spoke for about an hour on the Progress of Prison Reform, covering pretty much the entire ground in an interesting way. He denounced, among other things, the contract system of prison labor, and the audience evidently strongly sympathized with his opposition to it. He advocated the ticket-of-leave and the indeterminate sentence, and hoped that the new prison in Minnesota would be organized upon that basis.

Miss Clara Barton gave a history of her connection with the Women's Prison at Sherborne, Massachusetts, under Gov. Butler.

Ex-President Hayes was introduced and given an ovation,

but declined to speak, on account of the lateness of the hour. He remarked that he had attended nearly every important meeting held in this country on the prison question, since the Cincinnati Congress in 1870, and that if this meeting should close now, it would be one of the best meetings that he had ever attended.

FIFTH DAY—MONDAY.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Ireland.

At the close of the half hour devoted to reports from States, Mrs. Woods, of Chicago, made a brief statement of the work of the Erring Women's Refuge in that city.

The report of the committee on preventive work among children was read by the chairman, Mrs. Virginia T. Smith, of Hartford, Conn. It closed with a request to the Conference to petition the State legislatures to raise the "age of consent" to fifteen years. In the absence of Mrs. Anna B. Richardson, Mr. McCulloch read the paper on the Massachusetts plan of dealing with dependent children. Mr. W. P. Letchworth, of New York, delivered a very carefully considered and elaborate address on The Children of the State.

Five-minute speeches closed the morning session. Among the speakers were Miss Schley, of St. Paul; Mr. Barbour, of Michigan, and the Rev. Mr. Bull, of Pennsylvania.

In the afternoon, the members of the Conference, by special invitation, took the cars for Minneapolis, where they were received by a committee headed by ex-Governor Pillsbury, who had provided carriages for a drive about that city. At the close of the ride they alighted at Plymouth Church, and were delightfully entertained in the church parlors, where iced lemonade was served, and a little later a magnificent lunch, to which full justice was done.

The evening session was held in this church. The report of the committee on prison labor, prepared by Mr. Brockway, and signed by all the members except Mr. Felton, was read by Dr. Byers; it opposed contract labor and favored the piece-price plan, to which Mr. Felton, who is superintendent of the Chicago House of Correction, does not give his assent, but he was not disposed to bring in a minority report.

Next came the report of the committee on Federal Prisons and Prisoners, read by the chairman, General Brinkerhoff. He said: "The Department of Justice seems to be doing all that can reasonably be expected of it, with the appropriations and facilities granted to it by Congress. But what is needed is the revolution and reconstruction of the entire system. The government should provide for the care of its own prisoners, and assume the responsibility which properly belongs to it."

Ex-President Hayes was the next speaker, and, as usual, was greeted with cheers. Indeed, it was evident on all occasions that his course in giving himself to the promotion of humanitarian work was heartily approved by the citizens of the twin cities. He made some excellent remarks on the necessity for industrial as well as intellectual education. No system of education is complete for any child which does not give the child the capacity to make an honest living by the labor of its own hands. Work at the bench assists the mind. Children should be reared to respect labor. A large proportion of our convicts have no trade; industrial training in the public schools would tend to diminish the amount of crime perpetrated in the country.

Mr. Round agreed that the government should build a United States prison for its own convicts. Speaking of the county jails, he said it was his wish that a Minnesota cyclone might sweep them from the earth.

Dr. Hill, of Oregon, thought that there can be no reformation of prisoners without (1) competent prison officials; (2) classification of convicts; (3) useful labor, and (4) education, intellectual and moral.

Mr. Wines made the closing speech. His remark that "if there were more labor outside of prisons there would be less necessity for discussing the question of labor in prisons," was sympathetically received. He explained the principal features of the Elmira system, which, he said, involved nothing specially new or startling. It embraces, first, the indeterminate sentence, with which we are already familiar, in its application to juvenile offenders, and he could conceive no legal or constitutional objection to the extension of this principle to adults, which would not be fatal to sentences for minority, which have been again and again sustained by the courts. Second, the principle of progressive classification founded on marks, with which we have become familiar through the experience of the Irish and English prison authorities. Third, conditional liberation, under police supervision, now practised in many European nations. None of these, nor all of them together, if adopted in Minnesota, would overturn the foundations of social order and good government. He quoted Mr. Brockway's saying, that there are three stages in the history of every man's connection with the prison question: in the first, he does not know that there is a prison question; in the second, he awakens to the conviction that it is the one great question of government and of society, and is sure that if his views upon it were adopted it would be solved; finally, he concludes to leave the whole subject to younger and abler men. He closed by expressing the gratitude of the Conference for the reception given to its members in Minneapolis.

SIXTH DAY—TUESDAY.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Gillespie.

The report of the committee on charity organization was presented by Mr. W. Alex. Johnson, of Chicago. It showed the existence of sixty-seven societies in the country for the relief of the poor, or the suppression of pauperism, outside of all the churches. Mr. Rosenau, of Buffalo, N. Y., described the crêche. Mr. George B. Buzelle, of Brooklyn, spoke on the work of the friendly visitor. Dr. W. C. Kloman, of Baltimore, explained the operation of provident savings-banks. Father Cleary, of Wisconsin, gave his experience, as a Catholic priest, with tramps, and was sure that the underlying cause of vagabondage is the drinking saloon. Bishop Gillespie made some very temperate and forcible observations on the relative sphere of the Church and the State in the relief of suffering. The Rev. Mr. Bull then read a report of his investigations on the subject of trampery, full of statistics. The Conference laughed out, when it heard the great number of causes assigned and the remedies suggested by the speaker's correspondents. Mr. Wright thought that the Christian churches neglected their duty to the unfortunate. Mr. McCulloch, of Indianapolis, spoke a good word for the tramp; he believed him, in many cases, to be a man honestly in search of work and unable to obtain it. The defaulting cashier, on his way to Canada, should be classed as a tramp.

The next thing upon the programme was the report of a special committee on The Statistics of the Causes of Crime and Misfortune, which was not forthcoming, owing to sickness in the family of the chairman. Mr. Wines, a member of the committee, made some off-hand suggestions on the general subject indicated by the title, in which he said that the search for particular causes is to a large extent fruitless, since what is, is the product of what has been, and the interconnection between social conditions is too intimate and vital to admit of their dissection. All evil has three roots: one in physical conditions, one in social organization, and the third in man's moral nature. The remedy is also threefold. As to intemperance, there can be no question that it is a fruitful cause of disease, poverty, wretchedness, and disorder, but not of crime, properly so-called, which originates in depraved appetites and the selfishness of the human heart. No doubt better sanitary conditions would elevate public and private morality, as well as add to the

sum of human comfort and happiness. But he had no faith in social specifics, and opposed any attempt, from any quarter, to commit the Conference as a body to the endorsement of particular remedies for existing evils; its proper work is the study of the evils themselves, and nothing should be done in the way of adopting formulated expressions of opinion which would tend to narrow the membership of the body to any given clique. We have to study the effect upon society of the altered conditions of modern life, among which may be prominently mentioned the invention of labor-saving machinery, the organization of corporations, into whose keeping wealth tends more and more to flow, the growth of towns, and possibly what is awkwardly termed the emancipation of women.

Mrs. Van Cleve, of Minneapolis, a venerable-looking lady, very deaf, with a most pleasing, amiable face and a profusion of white curls, was introduced and said a few words expressing her great pleasure, if she could not hear what was said, at being permitted to look at those who had come to do good to the people of her city and State.

Mr. W. J. McGarigle, warden of the Cook County Hospital at Chicago, extended a cordial invitation to the delegates from the east to visit the county institutions of Chicago on their return home, and spoke with great point and precision of the abuses of criminal justice which had fallen under his observation when he was chief of police, particularly of the disposition of the police to make unnecessary arrests, and of the impropriety of appointing incompetent police magistrates for political reasons.

The afternoon session opened with a most impressive scene. By a vote of the Conference, Rabbi Sonneschein, of St. Louis, pronounced a eulogy upon his deceased friend, Bishop Robertson, of Missouri, a former vice-president of the organization, and at its close led the Conference in prayer. Bishop Gillespie thanked him for what he had said.

The first paper was by Dr. P. S. Conner, of Cincinnati, on Hospitals.

Mr. Fulton read a paper by Mrs. Parker, of Rochester, N. Y., on The Female Wards of the State.

Mr. Huntoon's essay on the Education of the Blind was read by Mr. Milligan. Dr. Byers objected to an expression contained in it: "the cold slime of charity," and insisted that while institutions for the blind may be of an educational character, and so connected with our public-school system, they also have their origin in a benevolent impulse, and are connected, on their other side, with our system of public charities, nor is this any disgrace to them. On the other hand, if it were not for the feeling of sympathy with the unfortunate condition of the blind, these institutions, as boarding-schools, could not be maintained.

Mrs. Flower, President of the Illinois Training-School for Nurses, urged the importance of this branch of the work.

Mr. McGarigle discussed the system of first aid to the injured necessary in every large city, and of having patrol-wagons supplied with bandages and other appliances for immediate attention to wounds, which should be kept in closets under the seats.

Mr. Fay's paper on The Education of the Deaf was read by Dr. Byers.

At the adjournment of this session a party of gentlemen, of whom ex-President Hayes was one, were taken in carriages furnished by the city, to see the city hospital and the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor. A reception to the ladies of the Conference was given by the ladies of St. Paul at the elegant residence of Mrs. C. W. Griggs. Refreshments were served.

In the evening Mr. Henry W. Lord, of Dakota, made an address on The Relations of Education to Crime and Pauperism, in which he advocated industrial education.

The report of the Committee on Imigration was presented by the chairman, Dr. C. S. Hoyt, Secretary of the New York State Board of Charities, after which Mr. Wines, for Mr. Sanborn, who had been compelled to return to Boston, read his article on Migration and Immigration. This led to a very lively debate, perhaps the most lively that was had on any subject. Mr. Wright, Secretary of the Wisconsin Board of Charities and Reform, very emphatically declared that we propose to put a stop to the deliberate shipment to our shores of paupers, criminals, and insane people from foreign lands. Dr. Gundry, of Baltimore, thought that immigration has built up this country, and that we ought to be willing to take the bad with the good; he regarded Dr. Hoyt's proposition to subject immigrants to a rigid examination, at landing, as to their capacity for self-support, un-American. Rabbi Sonneschein, a Hungarian, naturalized in America, said that he was one of the wandering Jews, who could not understand how the descendants of the Puritans, who were themselves immigrants, could deny any honest and healthy immigrant to their shores; neither could he understand how any foreign-born citizen could oppose legislation which would protect his honest pride and bar out the offal of Europe. We want the thrifty, frugal, and honest of all lands to share with us our inheritance, but we do not want pauper immigration. Bishop John Ireland (Catholic), of St. Paul, came forward and was loudly applauded. He said: "Immigration from Europe is desired by everybody, provided it is of the right sort, but we owe it to ourselves to ward off these unfit immigrants. The statement has been made here that foreigners make up the great bulk of our jail and almshouse population. But the great bulk of these were good people in their own country, weighed down by the single misfortune of poverty. Poor when they land, they are subjected to the temptations incident to poverty, and should be protected by our laws. The great temptation presented to them is intemperance. Saloons greet them on every side; politicians bring them to these saloons to get their votes, and they are impressed with the idea that whiskey is the great power in America. We scorn them, but are not willing to give our votes for the restriction of the liquor traffic. If we would protect them, if we would do our duty by them, they would do their duty by us." Bishop Whipple (Protestant Episcopal), of Minnesota, rose and quoted the scriptural exhortation, "Thine eye shall not be evil to the stranger." The importation of criminals should be forbidden, but not of the honest poor. If the Christian people of the United States will do half their duty by them, he has no fear of them. When the shepherd-boy was asked by a great Father of the Church, "Who is God?" he replied, "I do not know, but He is my father, and your father, and the father of all the world." He paid an eloquent tribute both to Rabbi Sonneschein and to Bishop Ireland, whose labors in promoting the cause of temperance among Catholic immigrants in Minnesota had been wonderfully successful and should be held in honor. Various other speeches were made, of short duration, when the Conference adjourned. The impression made, upon every one who was present, by the spectacle of these three eminent religious teachers, each of a different faith, fraternizing in this friendly way at a conference for the elevation of humanity, regardless of the differences which separate them in their ecclesiastical relations, rose to the height of sublimity, especially when the last speaker complimented and expressed his confidence in the other two.

SEVENTH DAY—WEDNESDAY.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Williston, of Iowa.

Mrs. Helen M. Woods, of Chicago, offered the following resolution, (understood to have been prepared by Bishop Ireland), which went to the business committee, under the rules:

Resolved, First, that it is the sense of this Conference, that the legal age of consent, so-called, for young girls, should be raised from ten years to sixteen years at least; second, that the members of this Conference be and hereby are requested to use their endeavors in the several States, so that public opinion be awakened on this important matter, and the State legislatures be memorialized for the necessary legislation.

After a spirited discussion, Omaha was selected as the place of the next meeting, the time to be left to the executive and local committees. The vote stood : 58 for Omaha, 54 for Raleigh, N. C. If Mr. Mills had not left the city the night before, it is probable that the result would have been different. But many of the older members thought that Mr. Mills' coming alone, and with nothing but a verbal message from the Governor (he had letters from other officials), did not argue any great desire on the part of Raleigh or the State of North Carolina to have the Conference meet there, and they feared that it would not have the united local support essential to a successful meeting. Their choice would have been to go east next time, but although an invitation to go to Philadelphia was presented, it was not urged with any earnestness by the member from Pennsylvania selected to represent the State upon the committee on time and place, who did not himself vote for its acceptance, and privately stated that he did not care to have it accepted. Other invitations were received from Chicago, Denver, and Salem, Oregon ; but the real contest was between Omaha and Raleigh. The delegation from Omaha was large, united, and persistent,

Mrs. Barney, of Rhode Island, superintendent of prison work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, presented the cause of police matrons at police stations.

Dr. Gundry reported on behalf of the committee on insanity. The report was characterized by good sense, and by a liberal, progressive spirit.

Dr. Richardson, superintendent of the Athens (Ohio) Asylum for the Insane, read a paper on Restraint.

At the afternoon session, resolutions were adopted, endorsing the INTERNATIONAL RECORD, and recommending it not only to the officers and employés of institutions and charitable associations, but to the general public.

Dr. Miller, superintendent of the ——— (Ohio) Asylum for the Insane, read a paper on Diet and Employment of Insane Patients.

Mr. Wright, of Wisconsin, read on The Construction and Management of small Asylums for the Insane, with particular reference to the experiment in progress in that State.

Dr. Isaac Kerlin, superintendent of the School for Feeble-Minded Children at Elwyn, Pennsylvania, presented the report of the committee on idiocy.

Dr. George Knight, superintendent of a similar school at Lakeville, Connecticut, read an article on Epilepsy, advocating the care of epileptic children in connection with institutions for the feeble-minded, and the legal prohibition of marriage of epileptics.

In the discussion which ensued, the advisability of more earnest effort to secure suitable provision in all the States for the care of idiots was strongly emphasized. Mr. Wines and the Rev. Dr. Buckner spoke of their satisfaction with the meeting in St. Paul. Bishop Whipple was impressed with the thought that we are living in a time of intense intellectual activity, and that whatever may be the differences between us, the man or woman who, in the spirit of Christ, goes out to look after God's children, none can gainsay or deny. He also felt that a meed of honor is due to the brave hearts who defend the temperance reform. Ought not at least the license to sell intoxicating liquors to be revoked, in case he who holds it sells ardent spirits to minors? Addresses were made also by Miss Spaulding of Oregon, and by the Rev. J. B. Silcox, of Manitoba.

The committee on organization made its report, which was concurred in, and will be found elsewhere in our columns.

At night occurred the annual "love feast." The usual resolutions of thanks were adopted, and speeches, humorous, tender, congratulatory, and complimentary, were made by many persons, among whom we may name Messrs. Barbour, Elmore, Letchworth, McCulloch, Sonneschein, Thane Miller, Byers, ex-President Hayes (who reviewed the work of the Conference and enumerated points on which there seemed to be a general agreement), Miss Clara Barton, Mr. Bell, of Minneapolis, ex-Gov. Marshall, Mr. Pattee, of Northfield, Bishop Ireland, Dr. Dana, Secretary Hart, and the retiring president, Mr. Neff, who introduced his successor, Mr. H. H. Giles, of Wisconsin. The Conference sang one verse of the song

My country, 't is of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing,

and with the apostolic benediction by Bishop Whipple, it adjourned *sine die*. Thus ended what, take it all in all, is the best of the thirteen meetings yet held in its name. May that at Omaha surpass it.

The papers and discussions in full will be printed in book form, and may be obtained by those who desire to procure them, if ordered in advance from Mrs. Isabel C. Barrows, the official editor, 141 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts. (See advertisement elsewhere.)

Readers of the RECORD who wish to extend the knowledge of the Conference, and at the same time to benefit this paper, are reminded that specimen copies will be forwarded to any address, prepaid, for five cents a copy, and are requested to send lists of names (accompanied by the money) to the publishers.

Ex-President Hayes took pains, in his response to the addresses of welcome to the Conference at St. Paul, to compliment the RECORD, for which it is duly grateful to him. He said : "This excellent periodical ought to be in the hands of every friend of the humane treatment of the unfortunate and erring." We hope that the friends of the unfortunate and erring will take his advice and subscribe without further delay. Especially we hope that the members of the Conference will enroll themselves as supporters of the effort which we are making. The action of that body, while it left both parties free, by stopping short of making it an official organ, nevertheless created a close bond of union between the paper and the Conference. Slowly but steadily and surely the RECORD is winning its way to the favor of those whose good opinion it most values and desires.

Mr. Giles, president-elect of the Omaha Conference, has already issued the following circular to chairmen of the various standing committees :

I desire to early call attention to some matters that concern the next session of the Conference. I think that the general sentiment of the body, as expressed to me through its leading members, is for brief papers and more time to be given to discussion. The number and length of the papers have precluded much general discussion of the subjects of which they treated.

This can be controlled by the chairmen of the committees. My own opinion is that the reading of a paper should not occupy more than thirty minutes.

Heretofore, in the treatment of general subjects, writers have covered so much ground, that papers have been of necessity long. I think that it would add to the interest of our meetings, and tend to abridge the length of papers, if writers would treat of distinct portions or topics of the general subject. The writer would then aim to present a more exhaustive discussion of his "topic."

I write you thus early, so that, if you approve of my suggestions, you may act upon them in arranging for the work of your committee.

OUR LETTER-BOX.

I have to thank you most cordially for several numbers of your INTERNATIONAL RECORD OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION. Permit me to congratulate you upon this very valuable undertaking. It is a kind of cosmopolitan missionary work, which cannot fail to produce happy results. The true essence of charity requires a combination of the local spirit of neighborhood, asking to begin at home, with the cosmopolitan genius of Christian love, teaching us by practice (not only by preaching) that we are brethren—united, rather

than separated, by the rolling waves of the ocean. Your paper will, I hope, contribute to raising the spirit of noblest emulation amongst the most advanced nations of the world.

Professor Von Holtzendorff.

Munich, Bavaria, July 15th.

Thank you for the documents which you have sent me, above all for the International Record of Charities and Correction. You have undertaken a difficult task, but at the same time a very useful one ; and the first numbers are extremely well done. The United States has an importance of the first rank for the prison question, and a publication which furnishes to the Old World information as to the progress made in the New, merits the support of all who take an interest in these subjects. For myself, I read your review with pleasure, and shall often borrow from it for my own.

M. Beltrani-Scalia.

Rome, Italy, July 27th.

I am greatly interested in the Record. I see no publication so happily instructive, and so suited to the present necessities of the day. It merits and necessarily demands a wide circulation to ensure its continuance, at its low subscription rate.

J. S. Butler, M.D.

Hartford, Connecticut, August 14th.

Allow me to congratulate you on the excellence of the International Record. It is an admirable compend of intelligence on these great topics of social amelioration and reform, and just what every well-wisher of his race and earnest citizen of the United States should read, in order to keep up with the humanitarian and philanthropic movements of his time. I find it both labor-saving and stimulating.

Chas. W. Wendte.

Portland, Oregon, June 28th.

Mr. Edward Atkinson suggests, in your July number, that the dietaries in insane asylums should be reduced below the average of fourteen cents a day for the cost of each person's food, in order that the average wage-receiver may not be tempted to "crowd into" the charitable institutions. You, Mr. Editor, say that the trial has already been made, at the hint of political economists, and that the attempt has issued in making it impossible to cure the insane, and has made them worse.

But it is not pertinent to push the inquiry a step further, and ask the political economist, if possible, to raise wages outside the asylums ? For, if poor food prevents the cure of insanity, is it not a cause of insanity in the first instance ? and would not better food in the home aid in preventing the crowding of asylums and prisons ?

Of course, the political economist will tell us that wages are already as high as can be afforded for unskilled labor, and that thousands are ready and eager to work for the wages offered ; that the law of supply and demand settles all these matters, and that philanthropy and sentiment disturb economic science.

We bow to authority, but can not help asking whether there is not a better economic science, which may show us how insanity and pauperism may be prevented. With constant additions to our public institutions, with an apparently increasing proportion of defective persons in some States, serious people are asking whether there may not come a time when the coolest business men, the most shrewd financiers, will see that it is cheaper to deny the infamous doctrine : "Every man for himself, and the devil take the hindermost." Mr. David A. Wells, one of the ablest of economists, has already said of the intelligent members of society : "The thing which they have found out is, that it is not for the interest of any portion of society, regarded simply from the point of view of individual selfishness, and not in accordance with the religion of Christ and humanity, to allow the devil to take, anywhere or to any extent, the hindermost ; and the thing which they are beginning to find out is, that the hindermost, who constitute, in this struggle for the acquirement and retention of property, the masses, are fast becoming conscious of their power and influence, and are determined that they will not, if they can help it, be captured by this devil of civilization ; and, if obliged to succumb to him, they may, like the communists of Paris, endeavor to draw down with them the whole fabric of society into one common vortex of destruction."

Perhaps, without ignoring any law of political economy, worthy successors of Leclaire, the Frenchman who believed that altruism might be domiciled with egoism in the transaction of business, may find for us a way out of this darkness and reign of the "dismal science." Perhaps it may yet be admitted by the princes of industry that the eternal war of conflicting self-interest will not and can not produce the fruits of volutary co-operation and the bond of neighborlove. At least it is worth while to keep attention directed to such facts as Mr. Atkinson says are "suggestive."

If it be true that the food of our houses of charity is better than that of the average wage-receiver, and that such poor food will crowd our institutions, the most mercenary and miserly must at last awake to the economical value of prevention—to the fact that the treatment of wage-receivers is closely related to the administration of public charities. Important as is the noble office of charity in the cure of disease, insanity, pauperism, and crime, it is subordinate to the prior question of prophylactics. Here it is that the captains of finance have their grandest opportunities.

C. R. Henderson.

Detroit, Michigan.

Our charities have too long been regarded as a sort of necessary evil. The only thought of them has been how to care for their beneficiaries in the cheapest manner. As to dependent and neglected children, the insane and the idiotic, this condition of things is happily past. A more enlightened and humanitarian sentiment also prevails with regard to our prisons and reformatory institutions. But the common pauper remains : the old-fashioned poorhouse is still his last resort, and once there, public interest in him ceases.

The purpose of caring for the insane can only be the recovery or restraint of the patient. Probably no system of caring for this class of unfortunates can result in a diminution of the number of new cases, for the causes which produce insanity are not the result of the treatment given them in institutions.

The same may be said of the idiotic.

In the care of prisoners, the principal objects sought are their restraint and reformation. Of course the methods adopted for securing these ends have a restraining influence upon those who otherwise might become criminals.

It has for many years been considered as a public necessity that neglected children should be placed in conditions affording them the best possible opportunity to grow into respectable and respected members of society. The various reform and industrial schools, orphan asylums, homes for the friendless, temporary homes for the dependent and neglected, etc., etc., attest that money and effort have not been spared in their behalf.

But the schoolship or recruiting-camp for all these classes of dependents is untouched. No system has yet been adopted which seems to check the ever-increasing army who feed upon our public charities. I refer to those who are paupers in our large towns and cities, and are cared for outside of almshouses and institutions, or, to use a common expression, the out-door poor.

In most cases those families which receive outside aid have children ; and, during ten years of service in caring for the poor, both in the almshouse and outside, I have never known a case where the children were not required to do the begging. I do not refer here to the class who,

through sickness or misfortune, require temporary help, but to the regular, chronic, all-the-year-round pauper, who would rather that the town should support him than earn an honest living, provided only that he is not made to go to the almshouse for support.

Break up this pernicious system. Quit raising children and teaching them to be beggars, to grow up an incubus on society, believing and knowing that, whether they themselves make any effort or not, they will be provided for in their own homes, at public expense.

All will admit, I think, that idleness and dependence, unrestrained and uncorrected, tend to beget mental and physical deformity, as well as crime, with all their attendant evils.

The question will, I believe, admit of but one solution: provide almhouses for all adult paupers, hospitals for the insane, prisons for criminals, and family homes for children. There is nothing which so caters to pauperism, which so encourages those who are not naturally so inclined to become shiftless and dependent, as the knowledge that there is an almost inexhaustible supply from which they can draw at will, for whose creation they have not been obliged to put forth a single effort.

My motto is: care for the sick, the aged, and the infirm, who are poor, tenderly; but make the beggar, vagrant, and tramp feel that to be a public charge means the restraint of an institution, where all the energies of which he is possessed must be put forth in labor as a partial remuneration for what he receives.

I hope and believe that the work which you have undertaken will meet with encouragement and prove a success, and that through the instrumentality of the RECORD, the heretofore thoughtless public may be educated to see in their true light the great questions of which it treats. It should especially inspire those practically connected with the work to put forth their best endeavors.

D. A. LYMAN.

WINDHAM TOWN-FARM AND ALMSHOUSE,
Willimantic, Connecticut, July 10th.

OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Blätter für Gefängnisskunde* comes to us again in a double number, of unusual interest. Dr. E. von Jagemann, Ministerial Councillor, discusses the training of prison officials; Prison Director Krohne gives an elaborate account of the Prussian reform schools; Prison Director Sichart treats at length of the results which have followed the adoption of the principle of conditional liberation of prisoners in Germany; and Prof. Dr. Kirn reviews the work of Drs. Sander and Richter on Insanity and Crime. The literary notices are very full, and include abstracts of Mr. Wines' monograph on sentences for crime and the last published report of the Illinois board of public charities, as well as the report of the Kentucky penitentiary, the *Philadelphia Journal of Prison Discipline*, and the report of the New York Prison Association. (We wish that Americans could more fully realize that their saying and doings in respect to the criminal and unfortunate classes attract increasing attention abroad, and that we are blamed for our shortcomings, as well as praised for our actual achievements.) A very full description follows of the Female Prisoners' Refuge at Oberurbach, in Würtemberg; and brief notices of the industrial colony of Anckenbuck; State care of neglected children; the Frankfort prison society; the society for aiding discharged prisoners in Cassel; St. Joseph's institution for cretins, idiots, and epileptics, in Herthen; the Galician Protective Union; German workhouses; the society for the reformation of discharged prisoners at Berlin; the central committee of German industrial colonies, etc.

We append to this notice the formal conclusions of Director Sichart:

(1.) Conditional liberation, since its introduction into Germany, has proven itself to be in the highest degree useful as an adjunct to prison discipline, and it deserves not only to be retained but perfected and extended.

(2.) In order to the wider application of this principle, without danger of swelling the ranks of habitual and professional criminals, it is desirable that intermediate prisons, on the Irish plan, should be created for offenders of certain designated descriptions.

(3.) Conditional liberation should be obligatory upon the authorities empowered to grant it.

(4.) Experience has shown that while conditional release may follow good conduct in prison, no absolute discharge from custody should be granted except as a reward for good conduct after parole.

(5.) In view of the deterrent influence of the threat to withdraw the parole if forfeited by bad conduct, it should be extended over a period of at least two years prior to absolute release.

(6.) The oversight of paroled prisoners should not, for the reason that it is a hindrance and peril to the subjects of it, be unnecessarily minute or protracted.

M. Georges Carré, 112 Boulevard St.-Germain, Paris, has had the kindness to forward a complete set of the sixteen numbers thus far published of the *Revue Internationale de l'Enseignement des Sourds-Muets* (*International Review of Deaf-Mute Instruction*). It is received too late for an extended notice in the present issue. The July number contains the first part of an article by M. Alphonse de Candolle on Mr. A. Graham Bell's monograph on the production of a deaf-mute variety of the human race; an obituary mention of M. Rambosson; M. Dupont's report on the words to be taught to a deaf-mute during the first year; an account of the deaf-mute of Agrippa d'Aubigné; a description of the institution at Milan; and other short paragraphs. Under the title "Bibliography," attention is called to the second edition of R. Oehlvein's "Observations and Suggestions as to the Situation and Treatment of Deaf-Mutes and Feeble-Minded Children"—a German work.

We have received the first three numbers of the *Quarterly Review of Deaf-Mute Education*, edited and issued under the direction of a committee consisting of Messrs. Buxton, Elliott, Howard, Neill, Schontheil, Sleight, Stainer, and Van Praagh: it is published by Messrs. W. H. Allen & Co., 13 Waterloo Place, London, S. W., and is also sold at Stainer House, Paddington Green, W. The price of subscription is five shillings, and we trust that it may receive a liberal support from Americans interested in the subject of which it treats. We have been especially interested in the articles on the English College of Teachers of the Deaf and Dumb; Our Pupils and their Future; the English Census of the Deaf; and the Prevention of Signs among Junior Pupils.

From Prof. Aimé Humbert, of Neuchâtel, we have the numbers for the current year of *Le Journal du Bien Public* and *Le Bulletin Continental*. The former is the official organ of the International Union of Women's Moral Reform Societies and of the Friends of Young Girls; the other is the central organ of The British Continental and Universal Federation for the Suppression of Prostitution. The two movements are closely related; but the former has for its object rather the religious conversion of dissolute women, the alleviation of their sufferings, and the prevention of lapses from virtue on the part of children; while the Federation seeks to influence legislation, and includes in its membership many who would not feel at home in a purely religious organization. In the July number of the *Journal* we find the conclusion of the report of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Association of Swiss Women for the Promotion of Public and Private Morals, which was held at Geneva, May 17–19; also an account of the London Conference of Friends of Young Girls, at which nine nationalities were represented—the United States by Mrs. Pearsall Smith, of Germantown, Pennsylvania. This Conference adopted a constitution. The object of the organization is to shield young women who are compelled to leave the paternal roof in order to gain a livelihood, or who are isolated or in any perilous situation, regardless of their nationality, re-

ligious belief, or occupation. In the *Bulletin* for July is a tolerably full report of the Fourth Triennial Congress of the Federation, which assembled at Exeter Hall, London, July 28th, and continued in session for five days. Besides the general reunions there were two sections; one on hygiene and one on legislation. Prof. Émile de Laveleye presided. Mrs. Josephine E. Butler gave a history of the signal triumph achieved in the repeal by the English Parliament of the Contagious Diseases Act. Delegates from all parts of the world related what has been done or has been attempted in various countries, in the direction of creating a healthy moral public sentiment on the subject of vice and its relation to the law. For this country, the speakers were Mrs. Smith and Mr. Aaron Powell, of New York, whose new journal, *The Philanthropist*, is the organ of the movement in America. Mr. Stead, of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of course, was present. Miss Frances E. Willard was elected a member of the executive committee. Among the resolutions adopted were the following:

That it is essential to individual and social progress that the intellectual and moral faculties should dominate over the physical.

That international treaties on the subjects of the expatriation of minors and the traffic in girls are to be desired.

From the discussions in this Congress and the articles and communications in the *Bulletin*, it is very evident that the last word in the controversy for and against the *police des mœurs* does not belong to the medical profession, and that physicians themselves are not agreed as to the utility, from a hygienic point of view, of the attempt to regulate the social evil by a system of enforced registration and inspection.

The following is the authorized statement of principles of the Federation, from the second article of the constitution:

The Federation, as an international association, limits itself to a general declaration of principles, and leaves to the sections, groups, and national committees, regions or localities, the duty of determining what specific reforms are necessary in their statutes.

In the special domain of legislation on public morals, it contends for the autonomy of man, which has its corollary in the doctrine of individual responsibility. On the one hand, it condemns every measure of exception applied under the pretext of social custom; on the other, it asserts that in framing regulations whose aim is to secure for men security and irresponsibility in the practice of vice, the State overturns the very conception of responsibility which is the basis of morals. In making the entire burden of legal consequences of an act in common fall exclusively upon woman, the State teaches the dangerous principle that there is one standard of morality for one sex and a different standard for the other.

In consideration of the fact that voluntary and private prostitution is an offence against the conscience alone and not against the law, this Federation declares that the interference of the State in the matter of morals should be confined to the following points: (1) the punishment of every assault upon chastity committed or attempted against a minor or any person assimilated to a minor; the legislation of each country to determine the precise limit and conditions of this special minority; (2) the punishment of every assault upon chastity accomplished or attempted by means of violence or fraud against any person of any age or of either sex; (3) the punishment of all public outrages on decency; (4) the punishment of public provocations to debauchery and pandering in such of their criminal manifestations as can be proved without resort to arbitrary measures and without entailing under any form the special régime of *police des mœurs*—all legislation of this nature should be equally applicable to men as to women; (5) whenever pandering is proved and punished, those who pay the panderers and profit by their pursuit should be held to be accomplices in the crime; (6) the State ought not to impose upon any woman the liability to a domiciliary visit of the police upon the pretext of morals, nor subject the persons of prostitutes to any exceptional régime whatever.

In addition to the questions directly related to the special purpose of the Federation, it devotes itself to the scientific study of prostitution, the moral and economic causes of this social plague, its effects, and the best means of combating it.

The July number of the *Journal of Mental Science* has an article by S. W. North, M.R.C.S., on Crime and Insanity, in which the position is taken that "the law of responsibility in criminal cases is wrong in fact and contrary to knowledge and experience," which is due to the fact that judges "have studied the sound mind only, and not the unsound"; one by Dr. Ireland, on the Admission of Idiotic and Imbecile Children into Lunatic Asylums, a practice which he disapproves; one on the Appetite in Insanity, by Dr. Campbell, F.R.S., Edin.; and one by Dr. Shuttleworth, on St. John Ambulance Classes for Asylum Attendants. The clinical notes and cases include one in which a lesion of one hemisphere of the cerebellum was associated with degeneration of the olivary body of the other side, four abdominal cases of interest, lead-poisoning with mental and nervous disorders, cure of insanity by the removal of a beard in a woman, and a case of ovariotomy in an insane patient. Then follow the occasional notes of the quarter, reviews, French, American, German, and English retrospect, and notes and news. The American retrospect contains a review of the Proceedings of the Washington Conference of Charities, a pleasant mention of the INTERNATIONAL RECORD, and the remarks of Dr. Spitzka before the Society of Medical Jurisprudence on the legal definition of insanity. The *Journal* prints an obituary notice of Dr. Shew, of Connecticut.

NOTICE.

In November, the American Humane Society will hold its annual meeting, in Cincinnati, where representatives of all the societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals will consult together as to the best means of furthering the ends which they have in view. It promises to be a large and important conference.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Our thanks are due to Dr. Achille Foville, inspector-general of administrative service in the French Ministry of the Interior, for a package of books forwarded through the International Exchange, of which the Smithsonian Institution at Washington is the American representative. The package includes: (1) The Report on the Care of the Insane made to the Minister of the Interior in 1874, by Drs. Constans, Lunier, and Dumesnil; (2) A Collection of all the Laws, Decrees, and Ministerial Circulars relative to the Insane in France, from 1790 to 1879, also the Debates on this Subject in the Chamber of Deputies and Chamber of Peers, in 1837–38, in three volumes, from the Librairie Administrative de Berger-Leorault et Cie., 5 Rue des Beaux-Arts; (3) Dr. Foville's Report on the Lunacy Laws of England and Scotland, published in 1855 by J. B. Baillière et Fils, Rue Hautefeuille, 19; (4) two of Dr. Foville's recent pamphlets: one on The Physicians of Shakspeare, the other on the Right of Reclamation before the Civil Tribunals, which Pertains to the Insane. For this very handsome present we make every suitable acknowledgment.

490.

We stand corrected. Our notice of the late Stephen Cutter, in our July issue, was substantially a reproduction of the remarks concerning him by Mr. W. M. F. Round, delivered in the Elmira Reformatory and quoted in the *Summary*. But a correspondent of that paper, writing from the office of the New York Prison Association, says: "One would infer that the 490 referred to was Mr. Cutter's motto, whereas it is in reality Mr. Round's. As a matter of fact, Mr. Cutter was in California, and did not see the figures until six weeks after they had been placed in this office. It would be a matter of insignificance were it not for the fact that Mr. Round is connected with a band of workers who wear this number as a badge, and also that the INTERNATIONAL RECORD has taken the matter up." From another source we learn that the badge referred to has the figures 490 in the centre, and around the margin the words "Never give up a soul." These words were the title of a little tract by Mr. Cutter, and our friend remarks: "That *never* was the limit of his persistency in seeking to save the lost. 490 stands, as we have explained, for the scriptural "seventy times seven."

PUBLIC OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

By Mrs. C. R. LOWELL, of New York.

One of the latest papers on this subject is a Report to the Executive Committee of the Taxpayers' Association of New Haven, Conn., dated May 20, 1886, and it is very well worth reading, as it gives in a convenient form extracts from the opinions of recognized authorities upon the subject which ought to have influence with the communities where this practice still continues, and induce them at least to undertake a thorough inquiry into its actual results among themselves.

"Out-door relief" consists in giving aid in kind or money to persons or families in their own houses, at the expense of the taxpayers of the community to which they belong. Theoretically there is very little to be said against it, but experience has repeatedly and almost invariably proved it to be a most dangerous and corrupting influence, to the poor who receive it, to the poor who do not receive it, and to the community at large.

Some of the quotations made in the New Haven paper are the following :

In 1821, a committee submitted a report to the legislature of Massachusetts concerning the care of the poor, in which they said : "That of all the modes of providing for the poor, the most wasteful, the most expensive, and the most injurious to their morals and destructive of their industrious habits is that of supply in their own families." This report was written by the Hon. Josiah Quincy, the second Mayor of Boston, and afterward President of Harvard College.

The report of the English Poor-Law Commission to Parliament in 1834 is still the most important publication on this subject, considered in the light of the results which it produced. The commissioners say : "We have dwelt at so much length on the necessity of abolishing out-door relief to the able-bodied, because we are convinced that it is the master evil of the present system * * * if relief to the able-bodied, on terms more eligible than regular industry, be allowed to continue, we are convinced that pauperism with its train of evils must steadily advance."

At the National Conference of Charities and Correction held at Boston in 1881, ex-Mayor Low, of Brooklyn, read a paper of widely recognized value and importance. His conclusions, after an exhaustive study of the whole subject, are : "That out-door relief in the United States, as elsewhere, tends inevitably and surely to increase pauperism."

In 1884, the standing committee on Out-Door Relief of the New York State Board of Charities transmitted a report to the legislature which contains a long argument against this kind of assistance, at the close of which they say : "Out-door relief, in fact, can not be defended."

The Rhode Island State Board of Charities says, in its report for 1886 : "The belief has been growing for the past few years that out-door relief should be reduced to the smallest possible limit, on account of its tendency to increase pauperism."

Mr. George W. Wightman, whose experience is drawn from practically dealing with this question during twenty-seven years as Overseer of the Poor of Portland, says : "Inasmuch as the subject has in previous reports been very fully discussed by me, I shall do scarcely more than reiterate my opinion that out-door relief is generally provocative of pauperism, intensifying the evils we would remedy."

The above quotations might be added to almost indefinitely from sources equally worthy of confidence, but it is not possible to devote more space to such evidence, nor is it necessary, indeed, since the additions would only add cumulative force to that already given, and not change its character.

In the face of this fact, the continuance of "out-door relief" in England and in this country is really an intellectual phenomenon. From the time of its inauguration, the present system has met with constant condemnation from all the most thoughtful people who have had direct experience of its operation—it is scarcely too much to say that there has been but one voice in regard to it, and yet it is almost one hundred years that it has worked mischief in England, and it has been introduced and has flourished in many localities in the United States, constantly meeting with the same objections, nowhere defended by any appeal to experience, supported only by arguments based on theory, and utterly condemned by experience in all parts of the world.

The above, however, are merely assertions, and, though they can be supported by an array of the most convincing facts, in the absence of such facts they can scarcely carry conviction to those who are disinclined to accept them, unless some explanation is given of the seeming paradox : that to help the poor from the public funds in the way that seems to be both the easiest for them and for the authorities is actually destructive to them and ruinous to the community.

The explanation is to be found in the moral results which seem inevitably to follow this practice.

So far as the recipients themselves are concerned, having once learned the fatal fact that poverty and suffering give them a claim on a fund which, being public, seems to their imaginations to be unlimited, they relinquish the strenuous exertions necessary to protect themselves against poverty and suffering, and thus they become idle ; not having to work for what they get, they no longer value it, and thus become wasteful ; finding that a condition to obtaining relief is that they shall be suffering, they are tempted to feign suffering when it does not really exist, and thus they become deceitful ; and idleness, wastefulness, and deceit not seldom lead them still lower, into actual vice.

This is no fancy sketch—the steps by which self-respecting men and women sink into despicable paupers are not described according to any theory—the degradation is a fact which repeats itself over and over again in every community where the moral dangers of public out-door relief are not recognized.

Of course, the same effects follow all indiscriminate almsgiving, and one of the chief reasons why public out-door relief is so ruinous is that it always is, and always must be, indiscriminate.*

The evil influence of public out-door relief on a community is not confined to the corruption of a certain definite number of its members. Its evil results do not cease with the first sufferers and their families. It was well said by one of the Superintendents of the Poor of New York that "out-door relief is as catching as the small-pox." The moral effect on the neighbors of those who get the relief, are, very naturally, quite as disastrous and of the same character. They, too, see the ease with which relief is obtained ; they, too, feel that the public funds are unlimited ; they, too, apply for relief ; they, too, learn to be idle, to be wasteful, to be deceitful, to be vicious ; and so the fearful contagion spreads, and the second and third generation are born with the taint, and that curse, "hereditary pauperism," suddenly presents itself, an actual existence, to the horrified gaze of men and women who would not be warned and would not learn, from the bitter experience of other communities, to prevent its horrible generation in their own midst.

Have any people a right to bring such misery on themselves and others, because they will not look and will not listen to the teachings of those who *know?*

No opponent of public out-door relief argues against giving help to the poor. What they do say is that out-door relief is not *help*—that it is, on the contrary, the cruellest injury ; and that those who sincerely desire to help the poor, must honestly and humbly undertake the study of this difficult duty, and must learn *how.*

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* The one exception to the above statement is to be found at Elberfeld, where public out-door relief is administered under rules so stringent as to be practically impossible of adoption in this country or in England.

INSTRUCTORS OF THE BLIND.

The Ninth Biennial Meeting of the American Association of Instructors of the Blind convened July 6–8, at the New York Institution for the Blind, in New York City. Twenty-four institutions for the blind in the United States and Canada were represented, the attendance being about two hundred persons.

It was a typical meeting of the kind. Papers were read upon topics of special interest, and the discussions were learned, profound, witty, and sometimes dull—but occasionally enlivened by the sharp encounter of rival theorists.

A paper upon Architecture, Heating, Ventilation, Drainage, Water- and Food-Supply, in Public Buildings, was offered by Mr. J. F. McElroy, superintendent of the Institution for the Blind in Lansing, Michigan. It was a carefully elaborated essay upon most important topics by a practical man of large ability, and as it has been printed in pamphlet form for general distribution will doubtless become a standard authority. Copies may be procured by addressing the author.

The subject of Manufacturing Establishments for the Blind was treated by M. Anagnos, of Boston, superintendent of the Massachusetts School for the Blind. The paper excited much interest and the conservative views of the author were generally endorsed.

By far the most important movement taken by the association was the formal ratification of the somewhat informal action of several individuals towards the establishment of a National College for the Blind.

A committee was appointed, including the persons who had already taken the preliminary steps, and instructions were given them to urge upon Congress the claims of the blind to a share in the large privileges accorded by the government to the defective classes.

Mr. W. B. Wait, superintendent of the New York City Institution for the Blind, was made chairman of the committee. In his remarks upon the subject, facts were set forth showing that so many brilliant blind lawyers, statesmen, clergymen, poets, and artists, whose names are familiar as household words, have already contributed to the world's progress, that is impossible not to be convinced that an institution for the higher education for the blind will do a work of incalculable value. Additional interest was given to the discussion which followed by the remarks of Messrs. John Glenn, of Baltimore, and Prof. Carll, of New York, the one a successful lawyer and financier, the other the author of the most elaborate treatise upon the Differential and Integral Calculus ever published in America, each showing in himself that the physical defect of blindness has not proved an insurmountable obstacle to eminence and success.

The other papers and discussions, while brilliant, able, scholarly, and enthusiastic, were not of general interest to the public—being, as was proper, more technical in their character than those specified.

The meeting was generally considered the most interesting and important, as it was certainly the largest, of any that has as yet taken place.

It is earnestly to be hoped that there may be a large and intelligent public interest awakened and maintained in respect to the establishment of the proposed College for the Blind.

Mr. W. D. Williams, superintendent of the Georgia Academy for the Blind, was elected president. Mrs. Sarah C. Little, superintendent of the Wisconsin Institution for the Blind, and J. C. Graves, of Alabama, respectively 1st and 2d vice-presidents. Mr. B. B. Huntoon, superintendent of the Kentucky Institution for the Blind, recording secretary; Mr. W. B. Wait, superintendent of the New York Institution for the Blind, corresponding secretary; and Mr. Stephen Babcock, of New York, treasurer.

The next regular biennial meeting will be held in Baltimore, in 1888.

B. B. HUNTOON.

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF REFORMATORIES.

The Fourth National Conference of Superintendents of Reform Schools met at the Indiana State Reform School for Boys, at Plainfield, July 12th.

Those present were:

Daniel Spaulding, president House of Refuge, Louisville, Kentucky.

P. Caldwell, superintendent House of Refuge, Louisville, Kentucky.

J. C. Hite, superintendent Industrial School for Boys, Lancaster, Ohio.

Mrs. J. C. Hite, matron Industrial School for Boys, Lancaster, Ohio.

Henry Oliver, superintendent House of Refuge, Cincinnati, Ohio.

R. J. Kirkwood, superintendent House of Refuge, Baltimore, Maryland.

Mrs. R. J. Kirkwood.

T. J. Charlton, superintendent Reform School for Boys, Plainfield, Indiana.

Mrs. T. J. Charlton, matron Reform School for Boys, Plainfield, Indiana.

Mr. Charlton called the meeting to order; Mr. Caldwell was elected president, and Mr. Kirkwood secretary.

The following were the conclutions reached by the discussions had upon the several topics under consideration:

(1) That, in the release of boys, it is expedient to make exceptions to general rules as to the standard of attainments reached, but only in very special cases, where it is evident that the boy's interests will be thereby promoted, or the family has removed to another State, or the boy has secured permanent and suitable employment disconnected with former evil associations.

(2) That, while the grade-book is not always an index of a boy's character, yet it is a correct indication of his outward conduct, and usually an expression of his character; it is a healthy stimulus to effort in moral growth, and consequently of great assistance in securing and maintaining good discipline, and a guide to the superintendent in counselling boys.

(3) That in reform schools the educational value of labor should always be kept prominent; mechanical pursuits, polytechnic training, and agriculture are most conductive to moral culture, and most economic, notwithstanding the apparent increased expense.

(4) That corporal punishment should be inflicted only by the superintendent or by his direction, but he should be allowed full discretion in respect to discipline; deprivation of food or unnatural and constrained positions of the body are not proper punishments for boys.

(5) That the government of the institution should be kind, flexible, systematic, just, prompt, and firm; the superintendent should have sole and absolute control of all subordinates; each officer should be specially adapted to the peculiarities of his particular work; inadaptability should be sufficient warrant for discharge; all officers should be of high moral character.

After passing a resolutiou of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Charlton for their hospitable entertainment, and expressing high appreciation of the school under their very efficient direction, the Conference adjourned *sine die*.

CONSANGUINEOUS MARRIAGES.

Dr. E. S. McKee, of Cincinnati, read before the State Medical Society of Ohio, at Akron, in June, an important essay on Consanguinity in Marriage, which should be read by those interested in the subject. He lays down eighteen propositions, of which we quote:

(2) Evil results have undoubtedly followed consanguineous marriages, but whether dependent upon consanguinity is extremely doubtful.

(10) Consanguineous marriages which bring together persons having a disease or morbid tendency in common are dangerous to the offspring; not, however, one whit more so than the marriage of any other two persons not related, yet having an equal amount of tendency to disease in common.

(17) The facts do not warrant us in supporting that there is a specific degenerative effect caused *ipso facto* by consanguinity.

(18) Consanguineous marriage, no other objection being present, should not be opposed on physiological grounds.

Let me wield the scissors of a paper, and I care not who writes its leaders.—J. B. McCULLAGH.

CLASSIFICATION OF MENTAL DISEASES.

An effort, originating with the Society of Mental Medicine in Belgium, is making, to bring about some sort of an agreement between the alienists of all lands as to the nomenclature of insanity, in its various forms, as a basis for uniform statistics and a wider comparison of the results of scientific observation than is now possible. The Belgian Society succeeded in assembling an International Congress of Psychiatry and Neuro-Pathology at Antwerp, in September, 1885, where Prof. Lefebvre of the University of Louvain read a paper entitled An Inquiry Into the Bases of a Good International System of Statistics of Insanity. The discussion which followed led to the appointment of an International Commission, empowered to prepare a classification of mental diseases, consisting of the following gentlemen :

England—Dr. D. Hack Tuke, London.
Germany—Dr. Guttstadt, Berlin.
Austria—Dr. Benedikt, Vienna.
France—Dr. Magnan, Paris.
Scandinavia—Dr. Valdemar Steenberg, Copenhagen.
Russia—Dr. Mierzejewski.
Holland—Dr. Ramaer, The Hague.
South America—Dr. Sola, Buenos Ayres.
United States—Mr. Clark Bell, New York.
Switzerland—Prof. L. Wille, Basle.
Italy—Prof. Andrea Verga (senator), Milan.

From an article by Mr. Bell, in the *Medico-Legal Jonrual*, it appears that all of these had, by January last, made reports to Dr. Ingels, Secretary of the Belgian Society, with the single exception of Dr. Sola. The classifications proposed are as follows :

England.

1. Mental alienation. *a.* Congenital or acquired ; *b.* idiocy, imbecility, and cretinism—with epilepsy, and without.
2. Epilepsy.
3. General paresis.
4. Mania. *a.* Acute ; *b.* chronic ; *c.* recurrent or periodic ; *d.* a potû ; *e.* puerperal ; *f.* senile.
5. Melancholia. *a.* Acute ; *b.* chronic ; *c.* recurrent ; *d.* puerperal ; *e.* senile.
6. Dementia. *a.* Primary ; *b.* secondary ; *c.* senile ; *d.* organic (tumors, hemorrhage).
7. Chronic delirium (monomania).

Germany.

Dr. Guttstadt had simply addressed a circular of inquiry to institutions.

Austria.

Dr. Benedikt had called the alienists of Austria and Hungary together, in an Austro-Hungarian Conference, in which Dr. Meynert, after citing the classification adopted at the Conference of German alienists at Frankfort-on-the-Main, in 1881, and the plan of Westphal, approved by the Weisbaden Conference of 1873, submitted the following :

A. Simple mental disorder.
1. Acute. *a.* Melancholia ; *b.* mania ; *c.* insanity ; *d.* primary imbecility.
2. Chronic. *a.* Primary insanity ; *b.* intermittent mental disease ; *c.* secondary mental disease.

B. Complicated mental diseases.
1. Paralytical.
2. Epileptical.
3. Hystero-epileptic.
4. Mania.

C. Toxic.
1. Alcoholic.
2. Other toxic agents.

D. Individuals needing watching. (Attempts at suicide, crimes, etc.)

France.

Dr. Magnan advised the collection of reports from institutions on a plan that would leave out all questions of etiology, curability, and mortality. The form of inquiry suggested by him enumerates the following subdivisions : Idiocy, simple dementia, mania, melancholia, insanity (acute or chronic), moral insanity, recurrent insanity, mental alienation complicated with paralysis, epilepsy, epileptic hysteria, tumors and cerebral injuries, mental alienation by intoxication by any toxic agent named.

Scandinavia.

1. Acute mania. *a.* Melancholia ; *b.* stupidity ; *c.* mania.
2. Chronic mania. *a.* Chronic melancholia ; *b.* dementia.
3. Degenerative mania. *a.* Monomania (primare verrucktheil), *b.* hypochondria, *c.* hysteria, *d.* recurrent insanity, *e.* moral insanity.
4. Alcoholic insanity. *a.* Delirium tremens, *b.* chronic alcoholism ; *c.* periodic dipsomania.
5. Paralytic insanity.
6. Epileptic insanity. *a.* Epilepsy ; *b.* mania transitoria.
7. Idiocy. *a.* Imbecility ; *b.* idiocy.

Russia.

The Society of Psychiatry of St. Petersburg has named a commission of nine members to make a report in conjunction with the statistical bureau of the Ministry of the Interior. But no report will be presented until after the Congress of Russian Alienists, which will meet in October.

Holland.

Mr. Bell does not give Dr. Ramaer's classification.

Switzerland.

1. Psychoses congenital. *a.* Idiocy ; *b.* imbecility.
2. Psychoses simple.
3. Psychoses organic. *a.* Paralytic ; *b.* senile ; *c.* other.
4. Psychoses epileptic.
5. Psychoses by intoxication. *a.* Alcoholic ; *b.* other.

Italy.

Congenital, or phrenasthenia (cerebrasthenia),	Imbecility, Idiocy, Cretinism.
Mania,	With fury, Without fury.
Monomania,	Intellectual, Emotional.
Melancholia or lipemania,	Simple, With stupidity.
Dementia,	Primary, Secondary.
Mania,	Double or recurrent, Moral insanity.
Phrenoses or psychoses complicated with	Sensory psychoses, Hypochondria, Hysteria, Puerperal insanity, Epilepsy, Alcoholic or tonic, Pellagrous psychoses, Paralysis, Senility.

United States.

Mr. Bell, who is not a physician, but a lawyer, has referred the appointment of committees of experts in insanity to the various learned societies of this country and Canada, and the following appointments have been made :

By the Medico-Legal Society of New York—Drs. Pliny

Earle, Northampton, Mass.; Alice Bennett, Norristown, Pa.; C. H. Hughes, St. Louis, Mo.

By the National Association for the Protection of the Insane—Drs. C. K. Mills, Philadelphia ; J. C. Shaw, Flatbush, N. Y.

By the American Association for the Cure of Inebriety—Drs. Joseph Parrish, Burlington, N. J.; T. D. Crothers, Hartford, Conn.; Albert Day, Boston, Mass.

By the Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Insane—Dr. Henry R. Stiles and Edward P. Wiley, Esq., both of New York City.

By the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane—Drs. C. H. Nichols, Bloomingdale, N. Y.; H. P. Stearns, Hartford, Conn.

By the Massachusetts Medico-Legal Society—Drs. F. Winsor, Winchester, Mass.; Ira Russell, Winchenden, Mass.

By the American Academy of Medicine—Drs. E. W. Cushing, Boston ; A. D. Rockwell, New York ; P. N. Connor, Cincinnati.

By the New England Psychological Association—Drs. J. P. Bancroft, Concord, N. H.; W. B. Goldsmith, Providence, R. I.; Walter Channing, Brookline, Mass.

By the Medico-Chirurgical Association of Canada—Drs. Henry Howard and James Stewart, both of Montreal.

A conference of these various committees will be held somewhere—we do not yet know at what point—during the present autumn, and the work of agreeing upon an American report begun.

LEGISLATION ON INSANITY.

A careful analysis shows that the steps which are or may be taken, when the sanity of any person alleged to be insane comes before a court for investigation, are :

1. The matter is brought to the attention of the court by a paper to which, in different States, different names are given. It is called the statement, or application, or petition, or allegation, or suggestion, or information, or complaint, or affidavit, or deposition.*

2. Notice of the application for an inquest is given to the person alleged to be insane, or to some of his friends, on his behalf.

3. The court makes an order that the patient be brought before it or before a commission, as the case may be. If the inquest is not held at the patient's residence, this order may assume the form of a warrant for his arrest.

4. Where the testimony in the case is not voluntary, subpœnas are issued for the attendance of witnesses.

5. Whatever may be the form of inquest, the principal reliance of the court is upon the medical evidence, which is usually reduced to writing and filed for reference, in the form of a certificate, signed, according to law, either by one or by two physicians, with or without an accompanying jurat.

6. The court enters an order for the disposition of the supposed lunatic. This order may relate merely to his person, or it may also cover the patient's estate. In some States, one proceeding is sufficient for both purposes ; in others, the two proceedings are separate and distinct from each other.

Let us now consider each of these steps in the proceedings, in their order.

To begin with the application to the court for an investigation, we observe that the three important points for the consideration of the legislature, in framing a statute upon this subject, are : the maker of the application, its subject, and its form.

Back of all these lies a deeper question : What is its purpose ? What is the point at issue, upon which the court must express its opinion, which, when given, will have the force of a judicial decision ? Is it simply to determine who shall pay the charges of care and treatment of an insane man or woman in an institution for the insane ? Or is it to determine what shall be done with his or her real and personal property, during the continuance of his mental inability ? Or is it to protect the person of the lunatic ? his life, his health, his comfort, and his liberty ?

The lunacy laws of the State of Illinois have been vehemently assailed, on both sides of the Atlantic, because they provide that no person shall be committed to any public or private hospital or asylum for the insane, until a jury shall have passed upon the mental condition of the party affected by any order which the court may make in his case. In all of these attacks, the fact has been ignored, that Illinois is not the only State which has embodied the same provison in its legislation : why is nothing said about the hardship and wrong done by the laws of Kentucky and of the territory of Wyoming ? The injurious consequences of a compulsory jury trial for all the insane ought to be the same in those communities as in Illinois. We have never approved of legislation of this cast-iron character. On the contrary, it is only too obvious that it must, in a certain larger or smaller proportion of cases, have the effect to prevent the prompt removal of the patient to the hospital for treatment, and consequently diminish the chances of his recovery, thus adding to the immense accumulation of chronic insanity in the community at large. But it is fair to say, on the other hand, that it is not the jury in itself considered which constitutes the harsh feature of the Illinois law, but the requirement that the inquest shall be at the county court-house and in public. Compulsory jury trial of an undoubted lunatic, for the benevolent purpose of obtaining for him proper medical treatment by a skilled physician, has in it an element of the ridiculous ; but at least this law recognizes and emphasizes one object sought in a judicial inquiry as to the patient's mental status, which is to protect him from any unnecessary abridgment of his personal liberty.

There are States in which no thought seems to have been given to this aspect of the question. Where inquest is made only in the case of insane paupers, it is quite clear that the mind of the legislature was directed primarily to the pecuniary relations of the patient and of the institution, or of the patient and the custodians of the fund for the relief of the poor. Where the law of commitment is silent on the subject of any judicial inquisition, but the law of guardianship provides for an inquest in the case of any insane person seized of an estate, it is equally plain that the attention of the legislature was confined to the point of the lunatic's property, while the necessity for judicial protection of his person was ignored.

To revert to what has already been said, there are about twenty States (or nearly one half) in which insane persons (either all or a part of the insane) may be admitted into hospitals or asylums for the insane, with or without medical certificate, but certainly without judicial inquiry.

Where a judicial investigation is provided for, it may be unrestricted in its application, or it may be ordered or authorized in the case of the insane who are "fit subjects for treatment or custody in an institution," or "require to be restrained," or are "suffering from want of proper care," or are "unsafe to be at large," or are "dangerous" or "curable," or "paupers" or "indigent." It would be simpler and better to dispense with all of these distinctions, at least in so far as relates to the requirement for intervention on the part of the court, before any deprivation of personal liberty (except in emergencies, where a patient is violent and dangerous to himself or others) is tolerated by the statute. Where there is no interference proposed by a patient's friends with his control of his person and property, the question of his treatment is and remains purely medical in its nature. The moment that such interference becomes necessary, it ceases to be purely medical and becomes medico-legal. Then and there the responsibility for the

* Every term which suggests any analogy between proceedings in lunacy and criminal proceedings ought, as far as possible, to be eliminated from the law, as unfeeling and misleading. For this reason the term "application" or "petition" is preferable to "information" or "complaint."

judiciary (and indirectly of the legislature) commences. Any insane man or woman who needs to be more or less permanently deprived of control of person or estate is, therefore, a proper subject for an application to a court for its action and decision.

The person who may make application must be defined in the statute. Such application may be voluntary or compulsory. If the application is voluntary, there appears to be no good reason for forbidding it to be made by any person, as is the law in the great majority of States. The court is not bound to grant it, unless there is, in the opinion of the judge, sufficient reason for doing so. We would therefore expurgate from the statute-books all such words, in this connection, as "relative," "friend," "guardian," "citizen," "resident," and "householder." They are superfluous and injurious. Suppose that an insane man had no relative or friend in the county—then who is to make the application? Worst of all is the law of Kentucky, where the application must be made by the attorney of the commonwealth, or, if he be absent, by the county attorney; as if insanity were a crime.

If the subject of inquest is a pauper, there is a natural propriety in the application being made by the overseers of the poor. But to confine the power to initiate proceedings for the relief of insane paupers to overseers of the poor, is overseers' law. It is conceivable that in their minds there might not arise a doubt whether the good of the pauper should be sacrificed to the integrity of the poor-fund, especially in States which provide for the support of inmates of public institutions at the expense of private persons, towns, and counties, instead of from the treasury of the State. Under a system of universal suffrage, the political aspects of things will present themselves to the imagination of officials. Probably this is true, even under monarchical forms of government. For the protection of insane paupers against overseers of the poor, any person should be as free to make application to a court in their behalf as in behalf of any other lunatic.

Compulsory application is another matter. This is of necessity confined to officials. There are but few States which have made provision for it; but their example is perhaps worthy of imitation, since there is danger that what is everybody's business may prove nobody's business; and responsibility for the failure to act in a particular instance may well be fastened upon some one person. This is, however, a point to which we confess that we have not paid much attention.

The form of application or petition is the last topic which the limits of the present article will permit us to discuss. It should of course set forth that A. B. is, in the opinion of the applicant, insane; and that his own good or that of others (or both) requires that he shall be sent to an asylum or hospital, either for medical treatment or for restraint (or both); or that, being incompetent to manage his property and affairs, his interests and those of others demand the appointment of a conservator, to take charge of his estate. To the inquiry whether this application should be signed by more than one person, we reply, not necessarily; though there is no objection to more than one person joining in it. If the petition includes the appointment of a conservator, it would seem to be right, in that event, to require that it be signed by a relative or by some person interested in the lunatic's estate. To the question, whether it should be attested by an oath, we reply, that it is not essential that it should be; indeed, we think that the resort to oaths on every occasion, in connection with judicial proceedings, is demoralizing in its influence, and is rather to be avoided, where it is possible.

We add but one further remark: The provision, in the Kansas statute, that, if the person alleged to be insane is discharged by the court, the person at whose instance the inquest is made shall be liable for the costs of the proceeding, is unjust, and it is detrimental to the interests of the insane, as is every thing which tends to prevent prompt action in his behalf. The law in Washington Territory is open to the same criticism; though it is better than that of Kansas, inasmuch as the applicant is not taxed for costs, unless it is thought by the court that there was no ground for the impression of insanity, in which event, we suppose, it might be believed to have been the suggestion of malice or of reckless indifference.

NEW YORK PRISON ASSOCIATION.

The 41st annual report of the New York Prison Association has at least the merit of brevity. It is a pamphlet of only fifty pages, including the appendix. The report of the executive committee contains certain suggestions as to the regulations of the county jails by law, which we reproduce in full:

(1) That there should be such legislation as shall require the county authorities to keep all prisoners in the county jails who have been sentenced thereto, at hard labor, for not less than the same number of hours daily as shall constitute the common and legal day's work of honest laborers outside the jail.

(2) That all prisoners, when not engaged in the labor of the jail, whether they be prisoners awaiting trial, witnesses, or prisoners under sentence, shall be kept entirely separate day and night, and that adequate means shall be provided to prevent all communication between prisoners.

(3) That there shall be no reading-matter furnished to the prisoners in the county jails except it shall have passed through the hands of the sheriff, and been stamped or endorsed by him personally, or by his acknowledged deputy, or shall have been furnished by the Prison Association of New York, either through its local county committees or from the office of the Association; and all such reading-matter last named shall be legibly stamped with the name of the Prison Association.

(4) That a uniform price for the board of convicted prisoners in the county jails be fixed by law, the price varying in three grades, in pro portion to the average number of prisoners in the jail. After carefully studying the matter and learning the cost of sustenance in other correctional and penal institutions in the country, we would suggest the following as a just scale of prices:

First: In jails where the average number of convicted prisoners is less than ten, the price paid by the county for board shall not exceed $1.75 per week for each convicted prisoner.

Second: In jails where the average number of convicted prisoners is more than ten, and less than twenty, the price paid by the county for board shall not exceed $1.50 per week for each convicted prisoner.

Third: In jails where the average number of convicted prisoners shall be more than twenty, the sum paid by the county for board shall not be more than $1.25 for each convicted prisoner.

And we would further recommend that these prices being fixed by law, no food shall be furnished to convicted prisoners in the county jails other than that furnished as a part of the regular dietary of the prison, unless the same be ordered by the physician in charge of the jail, in which case the order shall be written, the nature of the food specified, and the said order endorsed by the sheriff or his legal deputy shall constitute a voucher for the payment for such food by the county, and said order shall be preserved as a part of the permanent record of the jail.

It is furthermore desirable that a fixed price should be made for the board of such prisoners as are awaiting trial, or held as witnesses, or detained on civil process. The sum of $3.00 per week would be ample to furnish such prisoners with a liberal quantity of wholesome food; and the sheriff, the keeper of the jail, or any other person employed in or about the prison should be prohibited from purchasing for or supplying to any prisoner any article of food or luxury not in the dietary of the prison; or from allowing a traffic in any article of food or luxury to be carried on within the jail by any person whatsoever. A law embodying such regulations should not, however, prohibit the prisoners of the class last described from receiving, at the discretion of the sheriff, articles of food or luxuries from their friends outside of the prison, or from making purchases of tobacco through the agency of the keepers of the jail; nor should it prohibit any articles of diet that might be ordered by a physician; but where such orders are given they should be endorsed by the sheriff, or his legal representative, and preserved as a part of the permanent records of the jail.

THE HYDRONETTE.—The Hydronette is a filter of French manufacture, and consists of two jars; the lower one is a simple jar, with a faucet attached, through which the water is drawn off; the upper one has a space in the bottom, in which is inserted a thin plate of French porcelain, perforated with very fine apertures. The jar is filled to the depth of from four to six inches with thoroughly washed clear white sand, over which there is a perforated cover, to keep the sand in place. This filter is capable of furnishing twenty-five gallons of filtered water a day.—*Courier of Medicines.*

A FIRE IN INDIANA.

The Indiana Soldiers' Orphans' Home, at Knightstown, which was also occupied by the School for Feeble-Minded Children, was destroyed by fire on the 21st of July. The *Indianapolis Sentinel* says :

> There was water in plenty, but it was not available for extinguishing purposes, owing to the absence of hose, not a foot of this useful equipment being found on the premises. Whether the lack of apparatus was due to the neglect of the managers or to insufficient appropriations, the burning of the building under such conditions is a disgrace to the State.

Indiana is building three new asylums for the insane. Governor Gray thinks that two are enough, and favors removing the school for idiots to one of them, leaving the building at Knightstown, when rebuilt, to the orphans of deceased soldiers.

It appears that the institution was insured for $25,000. Now the question is : Have the trustees power to rebuild on the old site, without reference to the legislature ? The attorney-general thinks not, but is of the opinion that, if sustained by all the State officers in such action, the legislature would sanction it when done. But the auditor opposes rebuilding upon the present site, on account of the inconvenience of the location and the extra cost of maintaining an institution there. He thinks that inasmuch as this home has been burned three times within eight years, the facilities for fire-protection at Knightstown are obviously inadequate.

This experience illustrates the impolicy of the State insuring any of its public buildings. In the first place, as a matter of business, the purpose of insurance is to distribute a loss as widely as possible ; but how can the loss be more widely or equitably distributed, than by letting it fall upon the people of the whole State ? Besides, for insurance in a company the State must pay the expenses of conducting the business, which are saved if the State assumes its own risks, which it is better able to do than any company is able to carry them for it. The only purposes accomplished by insuring State property are : the payment of premiums on which some local insurance agent gets a premium, and the taking of the question of replacing a burned building out of the hands of the legislature, to allow it to be decided by local trustees, who may represent an interest opposed to the general interest.

On the question of responsibility for fire-protection, we can do no better than quote the remarks of the Illinois State Commissioners of Public Charities, in their seventh biennial report :

> Protection includes :
> (1) A supply of water not only ample but always available.
> (2) Ample pumping capacity to draw upon the store of water provided.
> (3) Inside fire-lines, that is, stand-pipes and hose so distributed as to admit of throwing water upon any given point inside the building.
> (4) Outside fire-lines, that is, iron pipe under ground running completely around the buildings, with fire-plugs at suitable intervals, enabling the engineer to throw water from the outside over the roof.
> (5) Force-pumps, of which there should always be two, so that in case of either breaking down the other will be in reserve for throwing water ; and such pumps should be sufficiently powerful to throw four one-inch streams at once from the ground entirely over the building.
> (6) Chemical fire-extinguishers, properly placed for instant use in case of necessity.
> (7) Fire-buckets, kept full of water at all times.
> (8) A fire-organization of the employés, and a regular drill, so that when an alarm is given every man will proceed at once to his post, and know from whom he is to receive his orders, and what particular duty is expected of him.
> (9) Fire-escapes, for the saving of life, as a last resort.
> (10) The electric fire-alarm, for the more prompt notification of peril, when it exists.
> When an institution asks for any of these safeguards which it has not, we are disposed to give the application a sufficiently earnest backing to relieve ourselves of responsibility in case of disaster at any time hereafter.

How small, of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

Mr. William Martin, manager of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, at Edinburgh, enumerates the advantages of workshops for the blind, as follows :

(1) Work-rooms, suitable as regards space, ventilation, warmth, cleanliness, etc., are provided.
(2) Proper tools are provided, without cost to the blind.
(3) Good materials are provided without capital, and without loss of the time of the blind, and also without loss to the blind through waste.
(4) Companionship and conversation with those who can see, as well as with the blind, is secured.
(5) Daily exercise and change of air is secured, which improves their health and gives them confidence in walking about.
(6) Their work is done at the right time of the day ; is done better and more quickly ; therefore, larger earnings are made.
(7) Regular daily work of the same kind is secured, and with it a regular income.
(8) The goods when made are sold without loss of the time of the blind, and without injury through delay of sale.
(9) The sale of badly made goods, and the consequent injury to the cause of the blind, is avoided.
(10) The blind have always before them an object in life, and so think less of their infirmity.
(11) Their characters and circumstances are known, and assistance, when needed, is more easily obtained. Some of the blind have, through their connection with our institution, received gifts, pensions, and help of various kinds.
(12) The blind receive some instruction and consolation ; each day's work being commenced with the reading, without comment, of a portion of the Bible, and the Lord's Prayer.
(13) Begging, or the temptation to beg, is avoided.

EXTRA-MURAL IMPRISONMENT IN GEORGIA.

The Dade county mines practically consist of three prison camps, two upon the mountain top, at Castle Rock and Cole City respectively, and one in the valley.

These camps consist of a huge stockade of logs standing side by side around a square, in which are numerous log-houses wherein the prisoners sleep. Stationed around the clearing are little boxes, in each of which stands a guard with heavily loaded shot-gun, who too often murders some vile wretch while seeking the freedom of the woods so temptingly near him.

The convicts are mostly ignorant negroes and low whites. Upon their entrance to the camp each one is given a striped suit and a shackle is riveted around his ankle. Attached to this is a trace-chain, in the end of which is a small ring. This chain is never removed until his death, unless by accident he survives his term of sentence. He gets his food—corn-bread and bacon—in a pail, and is put to work in damp mines or at the doors of the hot coke ovens. At night a log-chain is run through the ring on the end of the one attached to his ankle, together with fifty others, and its end locked on the outside of the building.

These fifty wretches chained in a bunk are allowed to indulge in every evil that such association can bring. No schools or attempts at reform are ever made. The hours when idle are spent in their bunks gambling, blaspheming, and indulging in every license that the length of their chain will permit. A fire would cremate the whole lot in a few minutes, for there would be no escape.

The hospital is a miserable place that would make a well man sick to gaze upon, and it usually kills the sick who enter. Not a comfort nor a convenience, and the ghastly crowd of consumptives and typhoids are enough to turn a heart of stone to see them there, where in the healthiest mountain atmosphere of the world there is no shadow of excuse for their existence except the vilest unhygienic and unsanitary conditions.

It is a glorious sign of the times to see that the people are not altogether indifferent to this state of affairs, and that the lease system is fast becoming an issue in Georgia politics.—*Evening Star*, Washington, D. C.

COST OF A HANGING.

McHenry county has rendered a bill against Cook county, Ill., in the case of James Dacey, who was hanged for the murder of Ald. John Gaynor, the total being **$3,185.03.** Among the items in the account are the following : Jurors' fees and meals, $492.45 ; boarding Dacey from Sept. 9, 1884, to July 16, 1885, 664 days, at 50 cents a day, $332 ; night watchman, at $3 a night, 1,941 ; day watchman, $594 ; medical treatment, $62.90 ; freight on scaffold from Chicago to Woodstock and return on two occasions, $38.40 ; " rope for use of this case," $5.30 ; sheriff's fee for hanging Dacey, $100 ; cost of clerk, sheriff, jurors, and board of jurors in the trial of the alleged insanity of Dacey, $208.90 ; special police on the day of the execution, $259.70.—*Chicago Times.*

The work men do is not their test alone,
The love they win is far the better chart.

REVIEW.

De l'État Anormal en France de la Repression en Matière de Crimes Capitaux, et des Moyens d'y remédier : Précédé d'un Avant-propos et d'une Introduction : par M. Ch. Lucas, Membre de l'Institut de France, de l'Institut de Droit International, et du Conseil Supérieur des Prisons. Paris : G. Pédone-Lauriel, Libraire-Editeur, 13, Rue Soufflot, Avril, 1885.—Pp. 179.

In the year 1884, before the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, M. Lucas read a memoir, of which the above is the title, which appeared in the Proceedings, but has now been republished in another form, principally with the view of rendering it more accessible, but also for the sake of the introduction, in which the distinguished author resumes the studies of his life and states what, in his opinion, is the normal state of repression, and what is requisite for its perfection.

We remember to have been present at an address to the convicts in a State prison by a prominent politician, in which he remarked that "the cross had long since disappeared, the gallows was fast following, and he hoped to see the day when there would not be a prison or penitentiary on the earth." This sentiment was, as may be supposed, vociferously cheered by his audience.

But that the gallows is following the cross as a form of punishment for crime there can be no doubt. Our modern codes have limited the application of the death penalty to very few offences, usually either the taking of life or participation in acts whose logical outcome is murder. The number of executions is further diminished by the repugnance of juries to convict, where the penalty is death, and by the freedom with which pardons and commutations are granted to men under sentence of death. In France, from 1873 to 1880, the number of persons accused of capital crimes was 5,149, of whom 2,628 were convicted ; but of the latter, the jury gave the accused the benefit of "extenuating circumstances" in the cases of 2,429 ; and of the 199 found guilty without extenuating circumstances, but 68 were executed, the rest having had their sentences commuted. This is less than three per cent. of the convicted, and little more than one per cent. of the accused. A similar condition of things exists in other European nations. A half century ago the ratio of executions to convictions for murder was, in France, 82 per cent. ; now it does not exceed 28 per cent. So great has been the change in public sentiment.

M. Lucas has been during all this time a leader in the attack upon the death-penalty, not, as he says, from philanthropic motives, but on principle, and from a conviction of its practical inefficacy.

The connection between the movement for the abolition of capital punishment and for the improvement of prisons and prison discipline in Europe is very intimate. The abolition of capital punishment is practically impossible, unless a satisfactory substitute is provided by law, which will appease the thirst for private vengeance, and operate to deter men from committing murder by the terror which it inspires.

M. Lucas' complaint against the present criminal code of France is, that it does not provide such a substitute, which he thinks might be found in perpetual solitary imprisonment. The only persons whom he should be permitted to see are the warden, the inspector, the physician, the chaplain, and the guard. Thus he would be subjected to the triple punishment of perpetual captivity, isolation, and remorse.

We are reminded of the inscription which Edward Livingston would have painted in white letters upon the black exterior of the murderer's cell : "His food is bread and his water of the coarsest kind ; his drink is water mingled with tears ; he is dead to the world ; this cell is his grave ; his existence is prolonged that he may remember his crime and repent it, and that the continuance of his crime may deter others from the indulgence of hatred, avarice, sensuality, and the passions which lead to the crime he has committed. When the Almighty, in his due time, shall exercise towards him that dispensation which he himself arrogantly and wickedly usurped towards another, his body is to be dissected, and his soul will abide that judgment which divine justice shall decree."

We doubt whether M. Lucas would go so far as Livingston. On the other hand, he is not, like Livingston, a partisan of what is known as the "separate" or "individual" treatment of prisoners. Neither is he a pronounced opponent of it. He says : "The doctrine of which I have been the energetic and persistent adversary is that which looks upon cellular separation as a panacea, applicable to all alike, of every age, of both sexes, of every grade of criminality, in every prison, of whatever grade."

He distinguishes between imprisonment for prevention, of those unconvicted ; imprisonment for repression, of those convicted of minor offences ; and imprisonment at once repressive and reformatory, of those convicted of felonies. In the first and second degrees he favors strictly cellular confinement. But in the third degree he thinks that the first three or six months of sentence should be spent in solitary confinement ; but after that it should be in seclusion at night, but in common by day.

The weak point in this analysis, it seems to us, may be indicated by the remark that reformatory treatment would naturally be supposed to be more hopeful, the earlier in the criminal's career it is attempted.

But without arguing this point, we give his theory of penitentiary treatment as follows :

The maximum number of convicts who can be successfully treated in one establishment does not exceed 400. The aim of treatment should be to prevent relapse into crime. After an initial stage of separate imprisonment, the subject should undergo a regimen founded on the principle of progressive classification. The prison should be divided into three distinct quarters, and the inmates into three grades or classes, of which he calls one the punishment grade, the second the trial grade, and the third the grade of hope. From his solitary cell the prisoner should pass into the intermediate grade, with the understanding that he would be promoted or degraded, according to his conduct and deserts. Transfers from one grade to another should take place once in every six months. The convict who succeeds in passing from the intermediate to the higher grade should pass from that into a state of conditional liberation, to terminate, according to his conduct, either in an absolute release or in recommittal to prison ; in the latter event, he would not allow the prisoner another chance of release, but would require him to serve his unexpired term in the two lower grades, after having undergone a second three or six months of cellular imprisonment, as at the first. This theory, he says, he elaborated and published long before Sir Walter Crofton began in Ireland the experiment whose fame has filled the world.

The culprit, at his discharge, does not pass from the isolation of his cell to isolation in the world, but into the life of society, where he has to struggle with temptations, entanglements, and perils. He should, prior to his liberation, be inured to the conflict, prepared for resistance, and subjected to tests, by a life of association similar to that which he will have to meet outside. The cellular system sends out to the combats which await him only a soldier disarmed. Prison reform in Belgium, limiting its aim to cellular separation, with the view to prevent mutual contamination and to produce an effect of intimidation, is simply repressive ; the name "repressive and penitentiary" does not apply to it, because it does not proceed on the double principle of intimidation and of reformation.

To have regard, in our criminal jurisprudence, to the interests of society alone ; to seek the easiest solution of the problem which crime presents, by ridding ourselves of criminals in the easiest and most effectual manner, is not in harmony with the ideas of modern civilization : it is the spirit of barbarism.

I have always distinguished between two opposite systems in the codification of criminal law, of which I call one materialistic, the other spiritual.

The first bases itself on the destruction of life, the mutilation of the body, irreparable penalties and infamous penalties. The other, in order to put the offender in a position where he can do no harm, would substitute for the destruction of life the perpetual privation of liberty. It is founded, in case of temporary imprisonment, on the two principles of intimidation and reformation—not reformation in the philanthropic sense, for that would compromise the alliance between these two principles: but in the sense of prevention of relapse into crime upon discharge.

Of the purely separate system he says:

The Belgian theory has not passed beyond the materialistic stage of development, since it relies upon mechanical methods of preventing mutual contamination of prisoners.

This is too severe. In reality, the possibilities of reformation of prisoners depend not so much, after all, on systems of organization, as upon the men who administer them. It is a question of personal influence. Systems are only tools in the hands of the workman, who, if he does not know his trade, will accomplish nothing with the best tool, while, if he does know it, he may achieve good results with very inferior tools. The first thing to be done, is to get competent men to take charge of our prisons, who really believe in and desire to bring about the reformation of convicts under their charge; the second, to limit the size of prisons to a reasonable number of inmates, not too great for the warden to know them and influence them personally; the third, to quit demanding of him that he shall conduct the prison for profit, in a pecuniary sense; and then, to insist that he shall not be dictated to by politicians, in the matter of subordinate appointments, nor removed from his position for trivial reasons. Until this is done, the discussion of systems is somewhat premature.

As may be supposed, M. Lucas is a vigorous opponent of transportation. The English experience ought to have demonstrated the folly of this experiment; but the foolish French nation would not learn by her example, and to the introduction of this system into the French penal code may be traced much of the present embarrassment which in France surrounds the prison question.

The historical references in this book are copious and valuable, but we can not afford the space to speak of them.

In comparing the views of M. Lucas with those of Mr. Brockway, we note that he fails to discuss the mark system as an aid to classification; he makes no mention of the indefinite sentence as an aid to the introduction of an effective system of conditional liberation; and he recommends the term of six months as the proper interval to elapse between changes of grade of prisoners. In these respects, we think that Mr. Brockway has worked out a more complete scheme than that of M. Lucas, and one that harmonizes better with the constitution of human nature.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has, within the past eleven years, received and investigated 21,461 complaints, involving the custody of 64,383 children; prosecuted 7,353 cases, secured 7,038 convictions, and rescued and relieved 13,272 children. A noble record. And this great work has been accomplished without State or city aid, through voluntary gifts of those who love little children and are anxious to save them from ruin.

The address of the president of this society, Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry, in the last annual report, deserves to be widely read. We reprint portions of it as follows:

The American people are proud of their self-made men. That is to say, of men who, by their own perseverence and exertions, have raised themselves from comparative obscurity to a recognized position in the world. It is the pride of our nation that every one may rise if he will. Hence it affords the young of both sexes every opportunity of so doing. It furnishes the most liberal education, without expense, to the children of all classes. It rescues those children from surroundings of vice and ignorance, provides them with homes and facilities for acquiring a useful trade or profession, by wise and stringent laws preserves their rights, and punishes any invasion of those rights as a criminal offence. Its one object is to make good men and women of its children, and it glories in its men and women thus made.

Utterly opposed to this object, and in direct antagonism to these American ideas, is a foreign theory that children are merely the property of their parents, and to be utilized as they see fit for their pecuniary profit and benefit. Just as soon as children can be used or exhibited to make money, whether at the expense of their health, education, or morals, this anti-American theory is that the parents should utilize them. If, for instance, a child can earn a few dollars a week by working in a factory twelve hours a day, in a close stifling atmosphere, without even the usual hour for meals, which is exacted as a right by even the poorest mechanic, these foreigners claim that it should be compelled to do so. If a young girl, before she becomes a woman, can be exhibited, night after night, semi-nude, in some operatic or spectacular exhibition, where the innate sense of female modesty is soon destroyed forever, this is only what is done abroad every day, and the cry is, that America is prudish and behind the age. If small boys, instead of being sent to school, as the law requires, and to bed at an early and proper hour, so as to acquire the physical strength necessary to their development into healthy manhood, are trained in song and dance business, to exhibit day after day, and week after week, their crude and wretched imitations of vocal and instrumental art, so long as their parents make money by the exhibition, why, the question is asked, should they not be so used? The life of the child may be, and almost always is, discounted by these strains; its health may be shattered by the vile atmosphere it breathes and by the loss of food and sleep; its education may be neglected and morals impaired; but its parents make money, and that is their right, it is claimed, inherent in the parental relation. And the practice is carried to the extremes of educating children to beg, to peddle, to steal, and even to immorality, simply to put money in the pockets of their parents, and without the slightest thought of the consequences to the children or to society in the future, of whom they in a few years, must form a component and important part.

Now, just against this foreign and anti-American notion this society and its sister institutions wage unceasing war. It does not subscribe to the views of wealthy factory-owners (who utilize children instead of adults, because they can do so at starvation wages), that their establishments are great benefits to the children, and improve alike their health, morals, and education. It insists that beggary is not a proclivity of Americans, and that children shall not be taught to beg and peddle, when the American laws forbid it and provide for their education as reputable citizens. It joins hands with the workingmen, who have at last aroused to the fact that their children are being ruined in factories, in their efforts to secure proper legislation; and it brings within the iron grasp of the law those who ill-treat and injure the little objects of its care. It refuses to accept the theory persistently urged, that the theatre is so sacred a place, that no abuse of children can ever exist in connection with it; it carries out, in other words, the American law and American view of the case—that it is the duty of parents to support their children, and not children their parents.

In no country in the world are the rights of children so fully protected as here. Year after year a record of crime is rolled up, but the good effects of the laws enacted for their protection begin to show.

As an appendix to the above extract, we may state that a friend has sent us two newspaper clippings, one from the *Philadelphia Times*, which we can not quote, on account of the plain speech which characterizes it, but will merely say that, after telling who Mr. Gerry is—a lawyer by profession and a millionaire, who has retired from business to devote himself to this branch of benevolent work—the correspondent relates with considerable detail the particulars of a fight which he has successfully made against the practices whose exposure in the *Pall Mall Gazette* attracted such attention throughout the world. "English methods of conducting the business were duplicated on this side of the water, and the apparent character of the men concerned was something astonishing." Mr. Gerry has induced the legislature of New York to pass an act which makes the seduction of a girl under sixteen years of age, even if she gives consent, punishable as abduction, by imprisonment for five years. He claims that his society has for the time being "cleared the city of procuresses," (a declaration of whose literal accuracy we must be permitted to express a mild doubt). More probable is his statement that, in his experience, children who have been corrupted under the age of sixteen may be redeemed from the worst consequences of their lapse from virtue, but that beyond that age there is, humanly speaking, little hope of their rescue.

The other article, from the *Albany Journal*, describes some of the practical workings of the society. We learn from it that nine agents are constantly employed in patrolling the city, in addition to the clerical and executive force at the general office. There are also matrons, attendants,

and a lady physician engaged in the work. The walls are covered with queer souvenirs—articles taken from beggars, begging placards, and instruments of torture which have been used in the abuse of helpless little ones. While in the office, the reporter witnessed a fight between two bullies, who had come to protest against what they were pleased to term "kidnapping children," and three of the employés, which ended in the summary ejection of the former in a somewhat dilapidated condition. One of them was "a brother of an alderman included in the indicted boodle gang."

HAND GRENADES.—E. Geissler (*Pharm. C. H.*, 1885, 447) has recently been examining some of the numerous hand fire-extinguishers now to be seen in so many prominent places. The Hayward grenade he finds to contain 750 grains of an aqueous solution of 15.7 per cent. of calcium chloride. The Harden grenade contains 555 grains of liquid which consists of an aqueous solution of 19.46 per cent. salt and 8.88 per cent. ammonium chloride. The editor of *Dingler's Journal* states that Fire Superintendent Kayser tested these articles at Essen on August 12, 1885, and reported that they had next to no effect. Schonberg's "Fire-death" contains 440 grains of an aqueous solution of 1.66 per cent. soda and 6.43 per cent. salt. According to the *Iron Age*, Professor Adar, of the University of Geneva, also analyzed an American hand grenade, and found it to be an aqueous solution of salt and sal-ammoniac. Mr. Tower, of the Agricultural College of Lansing, Michigan, has recently published a number of experiments on the same subject in the *Sanitary News*. There seems to be no evolution of a fire-extinguishing gas from these grenades, and their only efficiency lies in the salt they contain. That strong brine is superior to water in extinguishing a fire is an old story, but that a dozen bottles of it are worth from six to ten dollars is a refreshing novelty.—*Druggists' Circular.*

Prof. Huxley asserts that the proper weight of man is 154 pounds, made up as follows: Muscles and their appurtenances, 68 pounds; skeleton, 24; skin, 10½; fat, 28; brain, 3; thoracic viscera, 3½; abdominal viscera, 11; blood which would drain from the body, 7. The heart of such a man should beat 75 times a minute, and he should breathe 15 times a minute. In 24 hours he should vitiate 1,750 cubic feet of pure air to the extent of one per cent. A man, therefore, of the weight mentioned, should have 800 cubic feet of well-ventilated space. He should throw off by the skin 18 ounces of water, 300 grains of solid matter, and 400 grains of carbonic acid, every 24 hours; and his total loss during that period would be 6 pounds of water and a little more than 2 pounds of other matter.

FACT AND OPINION.

The Insane.

A Congress of Russian alienists will meet in October.

The per capita charge to counties for board and treatment of patients at the Willard Insane Asylum is now two dollars per week.

Dr. Walter Channing, in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, reports a case of epilepsy of forty-five years' duration, with autopsy.

Dr. Orange has resigned the superintendency of the Broadmoor Asylum for Criminal Lunatics, and has been succeeded by Dr. Nicolson.

The trustees of the Norristown Hospital for the Insane near Philadelphia, have annulled the contract for the erection of four brick buildings for $91,150, and it is now understood that the work will be done by the day.

It is reported that the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane has bought five hundred acres of land at Newtown Square, in Delaware county, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of removing the hospital buildings from their present location in West Philadelphia. Provision will be made, it is said, for the accommodation of three thousand patients.

The death of the lamented Dr. Ingels, medical superintendent of the Guislain Asylum, at Ghent, Belgium, and secretary of the Society of Mental Medicine, was the result of blood-poisoning from a wound to his hand in an autopsy on a patient. Business was suspended, in the old city of Ghent, on the day of the funeral, as a mark of the esteem in which he was held by the public.

A series of new buildings in connection with the Hudson River State Hospital for the Insane, will be erected on the grounds about a quarter of a mile east of the present structure. The legislature of New York has appropriated $125,000 for this purpose, with which it is proposed to build for five hundred patients, in three separate blocks, according to plans prepared by Mr. Frederick C. Withers, the architect of the present hospital.

Almost every case of melancholia is potentially suicidal, yet it is one of the most easily curable forms of insanity if efficiently dealt with in its early stages. The essence of successful treatment, as we all know, is simply, apart from purely medical treatment, entire change of surroundings, and especially removal from the companionship of relatives and friends, whose presence only excites and intensifies the mental depression and suspicion.—Dr. BOWER.

Mr. North, a visitor to English asylums for the insane, thinks that the three most noteworthy characteristics of insanity are: deficiency of mental power, delusions, and destructive fury. Either of these three may co-exist with the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. The legal tests of insanity are therefore defective, so far as the law holds that a criminal is responsible, who knows the nature and quality of his act, and that it is contrary to law: he is not responsible, in fact, unless he is also able to control his actions.

Dr. Hartmann has collected, from his own observations and the description of others, 138 cases of insanity following injuries to the head. Such a result is not so common as one might have expected. Schläger found that among 500 patients scarcely ten per cent. were affected with traumatic insanity; and Krafft-Ebing, in 462 cases, found little more than one per cent. In fact, injuries to the head rarely cause insanity, save where there is a predisposition, or the condition of the patient is unfavorable for quick recovery.

J. M. Buchanan, assistant physician at the East Mississippi Insane Asylum, at Meridian, writes to the *New York Medical Journal*, that a rapid increase in insanity among the negro population of the Southern States has taken place since the emancipation of the colored race. This he attributes to the revolution in habits and mode of life involved in the change of legal relation. Hereditary insanity among negroes is rare. He thinks that the colored insane should be separated from the white, in the interest of both; that is, they should occupy not separate wards of the same institution, but separate institutions.

The Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland examines candidates for its certificate and issues to those who pass the examination in a satisfactory manner a certificate in psychological medicine. Candidates must be 25 years of age, and must have resided in an asylum (affording sufficient opportunity for the study of mental disorders) as clinical clerk or assistant medical officer for at least three months, or have attended a course of lectures on insanity and the practice of an asylum (where there is clinical teaching) for a like period; they must be registered under the Medical Act.

Non-restraint, like every other system in this world, is not perfect, never will be perfect, and, so far as we know, no one was ever foolish enough to say that it was perfect, and that through its use all accidents, dangers, and troubles were to be banished from asylum management. As a practical method of treatment, no true knowledge of it can be got from papers, discussions, and arguments. To be understood, it must be seen in use, and were we unfortunate enough to be present at a meeting where it was to be discussed, no power on earth would restrain us from flying to the door. It must be practised.—*Jour. Mental Science.*

Dr. Cassidy, of the Lancashire Lunatic Asylum, mentions in his report the fact that five American patients are under his care, who, he thinks, ought to be taken charge of by the United States Government and returned to their own country. "Two patients lately admitted here tell me they were in American asylums, when they were taken, one by the clerk of the asylum, the other by two strangers, and placed on steamers bound for Liverpool. One of these men was found wandering in the streets of Liverpool by the police; the other, who had been violent and placed in restraint during the voyage from New York, was handed over (still in restraint) to the custody of the parish officers on the arrival of the vessel in port."

Dr. David Inglis, of Detroit, read a paper before the Sanitary Convention at Howell, Michigan, in March, which has been printed, on Alcohol as a Factor in the Causation of Insanity, in which he asserts that "intemperance alone pours into our asylums a flood of lunatics which nearly equals, and, if we include the indirect methods by which drunkenness acts, probably far exceeds the number who can by all our appliances be gotten out cured." He quotes Dr. Blandford: "The ever renewed insanity of our lower classes has sprung mainly from this cause"; Dr. Savage: "Among some classes it is true that drink is the chief cause of mental disorder"; and Dr. Tuke: "Among causes, intemperance unmistakably takes the lead."

The most conspicuous service rendered to neurological science by Dr. von Gudden consisted in the method which he was among the first to introduce, of removing portions of the peripheral nervous system, or portions of the central nervous system itself, chiefly in young animals. And after long periods in time he examined the condition of the central nervous organs, as they might prove to have been affected by his extirpation experiments. In this way he was able to trace the course of fibres, for example, in the optic nerve, to their determinations in the brain. The removal of the eye of a young animal leads gradually to atrophy of the optic nerve fibres. The same is true in respect to all, or nearly all, parts of the peripheral nerve apparatus; and it is well known at present that degeneration of bands of nerve fibres, when once they are divided, takes place in all parts of the central nervous system, wherever bundles of nerve fibres can be found. While Dr. von Gudden was not, strictly speaking, the author of this method, few, if any, have applied it so industriously as he.—*Neurological Review.*

The Feeble-Minded.

A separate cottage has been added to the group of detached buildings at Elwyn, Pennsylvania, for the shelter of 80 weak-minded girls or women, whose history and liabilities are those of the Newark, (N. J.) "custodials." The trustees, at their last meeting, August 3d, resolved to build a department for epileptic feeble-minded children.

The Font Hill Private Home and Training-School for Feeble-Minded Children, three miles from Ellicott City and thirteen from Baltimore, advertises in some of the medical journals. We take it that this is a new institution. It will be under the care of a former teacher in the Pennsylvania Training-School at Elwyn.

Dr. Ireland states that there are, in 31 county lunatic asylums of England and Wales, 176 imbeciles and idiots under 15 years of age, and 1,731 above that age. In four borough asylums there are 14 under 15, and 112 above 15 years of age; in Broadmoor (for the criminal insane), under 15 years, 1; above, 7. Few returns have been received from private asylums, and none of them have many imbecile boarders. In the special asylums and training-schools for idiots, there are:

Institution.	Under 15.	Above 15.	Total.
Earlswood	114	459	573
Royal Albert, Lancaster	225	317	542
Midland Counties Asylum, Knowle .	21	29	50
Western Counties Asylum, Exeter . .	56	53	109
Metropolitan Asylum for Idiots, Darenth	376	224	600

These returns are not complete, some superintendents not having replied to his inquuiries.

For many years back, most men who considered the question have come to the conclusion that, if the work of caring for and training the idiots and imbeciles belonging to the poorer classes is to be properly done, it must be done with the aid of the state. This has been accomplished in the United States, which have long taken the lead of the mother country in education. There are also several training-schools and asylums for idiots in France, which are maintained at the expense of the state. It is more humiliating to be behind a poor country like Norway. There were in 1884 three training-schools in Norway, one for imbecile boys at Lindern, another for girls at Thorshang, near Christiania, and a third for both boys and girls at Bergen. State aid for the education of imbeciles is also given in the province of Ontario in Canada, in the kingdom of Saxony, and in several of the German principalities. Things are not everywhere bad in our own island, for while chaos exists in the counties, in the London districts every thing has been arranged. Under the Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867, the London districts have the right of making suitable provision for the care and training of idiots. The result has been the erection of the fine asylum at Darenth, in Kent, where, in a well-planned suite of buildings on an eminence looking down on the Thames, 600 idiots children from the wretched homes of the London poor receive good food, kindly care, and wise training. There is also within the same district an asylum for adult idiots holding about 800 cases. What is needed is simply to extend the system which is at work in the Metropolitan districts to the rest of England and of Scotland. The extension of the Metropolitan Poor Acts to the whole of England would, as near as I can guess, throw upon the poor-law administration about 10,000 idiots under 20, and double the number above that age. It must, however, be remembered that a very large proportion of these creatures are already living upon public relief in asylums and poorhouses, where they cost money which would be better spent elsewhere in properly attending them. To the best of my knowledge and belief, a board of 23 a year, exclusive of rent, in an institution containing above 150 patients would be enough to give each child good training and medical care, a sufficient and wholesome diet, comfortable bedding and clothing, with proper amusements, and that with these they would be quite happy and really need nothing more.—Dr. IRELAND, at Carlisle.

The Deaf.

It is announced that Miss Hull, of the Ealing Training College, will retire from the principalship of that institution and resume private teaching.

Mr. William Bartlett Dalby, F.R.C.S., the eminent aural surgeon, who has taken a prominent part in the education of the deaf, has been knighted by the Queen.

Prof. Stewart, one of the tourists to California with the teachers of the deaf and dumb, died of sunstroke on the way. He was a teacher in the Ohio Institution.

Among other hopes which I cherish for the orally trained deaf is the most important one, that this method will minimize intermarriage between deaf and dumb persons.—JAMES HOWARD.

Why should not night schools for the deaf be established in our larger cities, where the deaf, who have left institutions, to engage in the work of life, might carry their education to a higher point?

The buildings of the old Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb in the Old Kent Road, London, are to be replaced; so are those of the institution at Derby; and an addition has been made to the Liverpool institution.

There are in France 70 schools for the deaf and dumb, with 3,655 pupils; 3 national institutions; and 67 institutions either departmental or private. Nearly all the deaf children in France, who are of school age, are under instruction.

The *sensophone* is a new French invention for enabling a message to be received by telegraph by the sense of touch instead of by sound; the *International Electric Review* thinks that it may be utilized by the deaf, who, with its aid, can become telegraph operators.

There are about twenty-five societies for deaf-mutes in the Union, nearly all of which are self-supporting. The Boston Society depends wholly upon public aid. Societies in Salem, Worcester, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, receive partial public aid. All the Western societies stand alone.—*Advance.*

The friends of the deaf in France are divided into two camps—those who wish institutions for their benefit to be classed as charities, the others as purely educational establishments. Here, as elsewhere, the truth lies between two extremes: the controversy has two sides, and each party to it holds part of the truth, while neither has it all.

Herr W. Linnartz, director of the institution for the deaf and dumb at Aachen, Aix-la-Chapelle, has called attention to the transcendent importance of care to protect the eyesight of deaf-mutes, in a book entitled "Das Auge des Taubstummen," published at Aachen by M. Jacobi. Among other precautions, he recommends the examination of the eyes of pupils in institutions for the deaf by a competent oculist. We think well of this proposal.

Just before the close of the last session of Parliament, a return was moved for by Mr. Ackers, M. P., which was granted as an unopposed order of the Foreign Office, and which will afford a large amount of valuable information. It will state the sums which are paid in the principal countries of Europe (except Russia) and in the United States—distinguishing the proportion paid by the commune, province, or state—towards the education of the deaf in each of the countries included in the return.—*Q. R. D.-M. E.*

The following is a list of the gentlemen composing the English Royal Commission on the Blind and Deaf and Dumb: Lord Egerton, of Tatton, chairman; Mr. B. St. John Ackers; Dr. Armitage; Mr. W. A. Arroll; Dr. Campbell; Mr. C. Few; Sir H. Selwin Ibbetson; Mr. E. C. Johnson; the Bishop of London; Rt. Hon. A. J. Mundella; Sir Lyon Playfair; Dr. W. Tindall Robertson; Admiral Sir E. Sotheby; Mr. Woodall, M. P.; Dr. McDonnell; Rev. W. B. Sleight; with Mr. C. E. D. Black, secretary. It meets at 32 Abingdon Street, Westminister.

Sir William St. James Wheelhouse, Q. C., who died in London, March 8th, after a long illness, sat in the House of Commons as a representative for Leeds from 1868 to 1880. He was the first to take up, in Parliament, the subject of direct and special legislation for the deaf and dumb; he introduced a bill annually which advanced to a certain point and there stopped. On one occasion it actually passed both houses of Parliament, but while some slight amendments introduced in the House of Lords awaited the concurrence of the Commons, Parliament was suddenly dissolved, and the bill in consequence became defunct.—*Quarterly Review of Deaf-Mute Ed'n.*

Professor Gordon says, in a sentence as concise and pithy as it is true, "Practice in finger-spelling is practice in English." Exactly so; but it is not practice in speech- and lip-reading, and that is what the pupil wants and what we want. For speech- and lip-reading the finger language is a substitute, and it is a hindrance to their proper acquirement. If the pure oral system is to be followed, the manual alphabet must be abandoned. It can not be admitted either into the school teaching or the school life. The teacher need not even learn it, for he must never use it; above all he must never teach it. The pupil must know nothing of it. His work is to learn speech and to read speech upon the lips. Whatever hinders this stands condemned. The manual alphabet is such a hindrance.—DAVID BUXTON.

The Blind.

A member of any institution for the blind who subscribes a guinea a year to the British and Foreign Blind Association can obtain any of their hand-written books at half-price.

The blind must unite perceptions into conceptions: to them actuality is tactuality: the chemistry of thought must crystallize the discrete into the concrete: prehension alone can yield to them apprehension.

M. Boissonné, the well-known manufacturer of artificial eyes, found that among 3,984 persons with one eye, 939 had lost one in childhood: 343 by explosions of gunpowder and by injuries through shooting.

These eyes, though clear
To outward view of blemish or of spot,
Bereft of light, their seeing have forgot;
Nor to their idle orbs doth sight appear
Of sun or moon or star throughout the year,
Of man or woman. Yet I argue not
'Gainst heaven's hand or will, nor bate a jot
Of heart or hope; but still bear up and steer
Right onward. —JOHN MILTON.

Dr. Roth, honorary secretary of the English Association for the prevention of blindness, gives the following proofs of heredity of this infirmity, collected by him: "Dr. Daumas, in Paris, found amongst 1,168 blind, 68 hereditary cases, or 5.8 per cent. Herschel has known a man with rudiments of the iris in both eyes—three of his twelve children were born without an iris. Stratfield mentions a mother who had a cataract in her second year—five out of her eight children had cataract in infancy. Meyershausen speaks of a microphthalmus (shrivelled eye) which continued in three generations. Cunier has known a family in which, since 1637, that is for 246 years, spasmodic oscillation of the eyeball is hereditary—125 members of the family have suffered from it. Magnus mentions the case of a mother who inherited retinitis pigmentosa—three of her four children had congenital amblyopia (dim sight)."

At a meeting in connection with Gilbert's Blind Institution, which occurred many years ago at St. James' Hall in London, Bishop Wilberforce, in moving the first resolution, drew a picture of the disability of blind persons, which was painted in such masterly language, that it made a great impression upon the audience. Near to him sat the Postmaster-General, Mr. Fawcett, who whispered to him that he would like to speak next, and it was arranged that he should do so. As soon as the Bishop took his seat, Mr. Fawcett sprang to his feet and said: "I have to say that I dissent from almost every sentiment of that picture which has been drawn of the condition of the blind. When, a great many years ago, an accident deprived me of my sight, I determined within the next twenty minutes from the injury being inflicted that I would endeavor to lead my life and perform my duty as I had intended to discharge it."

In 1872, at Copenhagen, in connection with a Scandinavian exhibition of industry and art, there was a Congress of managers and teachers of institutions for the blind. At the same time was held a Congress of teachers of the deaf and dumb, and of idiots. The first general European Congress of Teachers of the Blind was held at Vienna, in 1873, in connection with the International Exhibition. In the summer of 1876 there were two Congresses: one at Stockholm for teachers from the Scandinavian institutions for the blind, deaf and dumb, and idiots; and one at Dresden, later, for the blind schools of Europe. A special exhibition of objects from these schools was connected with the latter. In 1878, a General Congress for the amelioration of the condition of the blind, and of the deaf and dumb, assembled in Paris, in connection with the Universal Exhibition. In 1879, a Congress of teachers and friends of the blind was held at Berlin, and a special exhibition of objects from schools for the blind was a feature of the meeting. A similar Congress and exhibition occurred at Frankfort, in 1882. The last Congress of teachers of the blind in Europe was at Amsterdam, in 1885.

Some oculists think that 40, 50, and even 75 per cent. of the present blindness in Europe might have been prevented. The prevalence of this evil is largely due to ignorance on the part of those to whom the care of infants is entrusted, of school-teachers, of the working-classes, and of many medical men. About one fifth of the blind are the victims of ophthalmia neonatorum (inflammation of the eyes in the newly-born), which can be prevented and can be cured. Consanguineous marriage can be avoided. Blindness from small-pox would not occur, if vaccination were universally practised. Blindness from over-work, intemperance in the use of alcoholic stimulants, or the excessive use of tobacco, is certainly preventible. The same is true of blindness resulting from many forms of disease or accidental injury, and even of that due to unsuccessful surgical operations. Neglect is the fruitful parent of misfortune. The observance of the laws of hygiene would confer upon the world untold blessings. Take care of your eyes, and of the eyes of other people also, so far as may be in your power to do so; for prevention is better than cure, and blindness is for the most part an incurable affliction.

Before 1811 the Danish government did very little for the blind. Their education was dependent on private benevolence, and but a small number of them were educated. It was, however, urged upon the government that, if it was its duty to take charge of the education of seeing children, it was also its duty to take charge of the education of the blind. A law was passed that an institution should be established by the state, and that it should be large enough to receive all the blind in the country who were capable of education. It soon became a common thing for parents to send their blind children to the institution. It was not obligatory upon them to do so, but admission was made as easy as possible. As the institution was not large enough to receive all these children, it was enlarged, so that now we can admit all blind children over ten years of age. Before the age of ten the instruction of the blind child is not dealt with by the state. The primary school of Copenhagen is a private one, and parents who wish their children instructed before the age of ten, send them there. The Royal Institution is governed by a committee of five, of whom two represent the old institution for the blind, which was given up when the state institution was erected in 1811; the other three represent the government.—J. MOLDENHAWER.

Prisons and Prisoners.

The Association of German Officers of Prisons will hold its annual meeting at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Sept. 13th–18th.

Berner's "Lehrbuch des deutschen Strafrechtes," S. 219, is authority for the statement that the question of the indeterminate sentence, properly so called, without minimum or maximum, is more than a hundred years old.

Whoever desires the latest accessible information relative to criminal law and prison administration on the continent of Europe should send for Beitrage zür neusten Geschichte des Gefängnisswesens in den Europäischen Staaten, von Emil Tauffer, Stuttgard, Verlag von Ferdinand Enke, 1885.

Mr. A. S. Meyrick, of Kingston, in the Princeton *Press*, strongly urges the necessity for enlarging the New Jersey State Prison, and also of creating a separate prison for women, to be officered entirely by women, whose capacity, he thinks, should be not less than 200, since it would receive women now sentenced to imprisonment in jails.

George Blair, of New York, Enos W. Barnes, of Wellsville, and William Bookstaver, of Dunkirk, the commissioners appointed to examine into the prison labor system (of New York) and report to the legislature at its next session, have visited Sing Sing, Blackwell's Island, Trenton, and the penitentiaries of Kings and Albany counties. They commenced their work at Auburn a few days ago. From Auburn they will go to Clinton. It is possible that one of the commissioners will go abroad to inspect some of the foreign prisons and the system of labor practised in them.—*Summary.*

Hospitals and the Sick.

The Home for Incurables, of Baltimore, has received a legacy of $5,000.

The Buffalo General Hospital has received a legacy of $20,000 from Francis W. Tracy.

The Michael Reese Hospital, Chicago, has let a contract for an addition, to cost $20,000.

The San Francisco Training-School for Nurses is putting up a frame building, to cost $15,000.

The Hebrew Orphan Asylum Society of Brooklyn, N. Y., intends to build a "Non-Sectarian Hospital" on Decatur street, east of Stuyvesant avenue, to cost $20,000.

Dr. A. L. Gihon, of the Navy, is chairman of a committee to raise $40,000 for the purpose of erecting in Washington a statue to Dr. Benjamin Rush. Subscriptions of one dollar will be received.

St. Andrews' Convalescent Hospital, under the care of a sisterhood of the Protestant Episcopal Church, has recently been opened in the City of New York, on East 16th street, near Stuyvesant Square.

To provide the poor worn mother with a room where, skilfully tended and lovingly cared for, she may recover or die in peace; to surround the poor workman, whose limb has been shattered, with such trained ministrations as shall save him from becoming a helpless burden on those whom he best loves; to help the poor lad, maimed by some accident, to bear more easily the anguish of a boyhood which has been thus blighted; to re-illumine the dulled light in the eyes of children, and on their cheeks the faded rose; and, where it is beyond us to give back life's lost sunlight to poor sufferers, at least to tinge with the moonlight colorings of resignation the clouds which have darkened human lives; this truly is an angel's, this truly is a Christ-like work. And it is the work of hospitals. —Rev. CANON FARRAR.

The opening of the new Sanatorium at Lowell's Island deserves more than a passing comment. Although the list of our charitable institutions is a large one, there has been hitherto organized no attempt to afford the treatment of seaside air for the class which may be termed the scrofulous and rachitic. It is well known that, in many of the continental countries, sea air is looked upon almost as a panacea for that class of disorders of nutrition which is shown in the disorders of joints and bones. In France is the famous hospital at Borck; in parts of Germany the Baltic is utilized; and in Italy the Adriatic and Mediterranean afford ample opportunity for the fresh sea air so needed by the poor, crowded in the narrow streets and wretched buildings of the Italian cities and towns. England has in a measure used her coast for the same purpose. It is only within a comparatively short time that there has been any necessity for such care in our own country. The American population is almost entirely free from rickets, and, though not exempt from the tuberculous joint-affections, yet we have, as a rule, been able to give the requisite care for such cases without organized help. Now, however, our large cities contain, besides a very large contingent of Irish and Irish-Americans (a class comparatively free from rachitic disorders, but not from the tuberculous affections), many Italians and Portuguese, among whom rickets is quite common. Furthermore, the conditions of our increasing cities favor the development of such disorders. The difficulty of utilizing our seacoast for such a sanatorium as has just been opened is chiefly climatic. The summer on the coast is a short one, involving a large amount of expense per capita and a brief period of activity. For this reason the managers of the Convalescent Home for the Children's Hospital placed their institution twenty miles from the coast, on high land, in a place where the season is longer, if not so free from July heat. This plan has also been followed by the Massachusetts General Hospital in their Convalescent Hospital at Belmont. In adopting the sea-coast plan for their institute, the managers of the Lowell Island Sanatorium were influenced by the generous offer of the Island fully equipped for a summer hotel, and also by the hope that the beneficial effect of sea air would be especially manifest in children suffering from chronic malnutrition, a belief which is entertained by all medical authorities.—*Med. and Surg. Journal.*